THE HISTORIC CITY OF DELHI

Down its 1000-year-old recorded history, Delhi was razed and built several times. The city played host to many rulers like the Chauhans, the Slave kings, the Khiljis, the Tughluqs, the Mughals and the British. It suffered the brutalities of numerous invaders. Each ruler and each invader left his own special mark on the psyche of this great city. The historic city of Delhi presents a palette of colourful influences that truly reflects the composite culture of India.

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AMAR CHITRA KATHA

THE HISTORIC CITY OF DELHI

A TALE OF POWER AND PASSION

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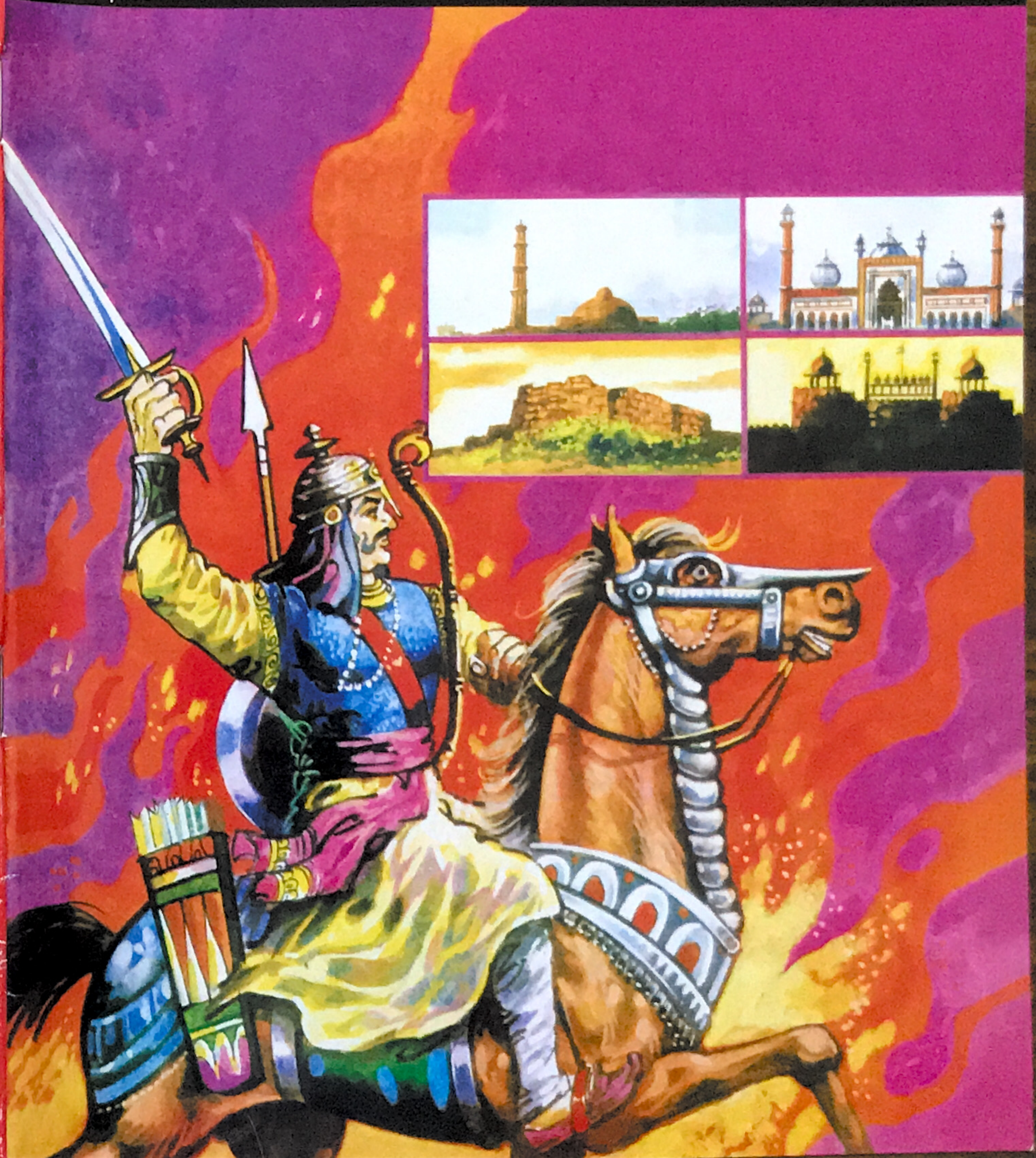


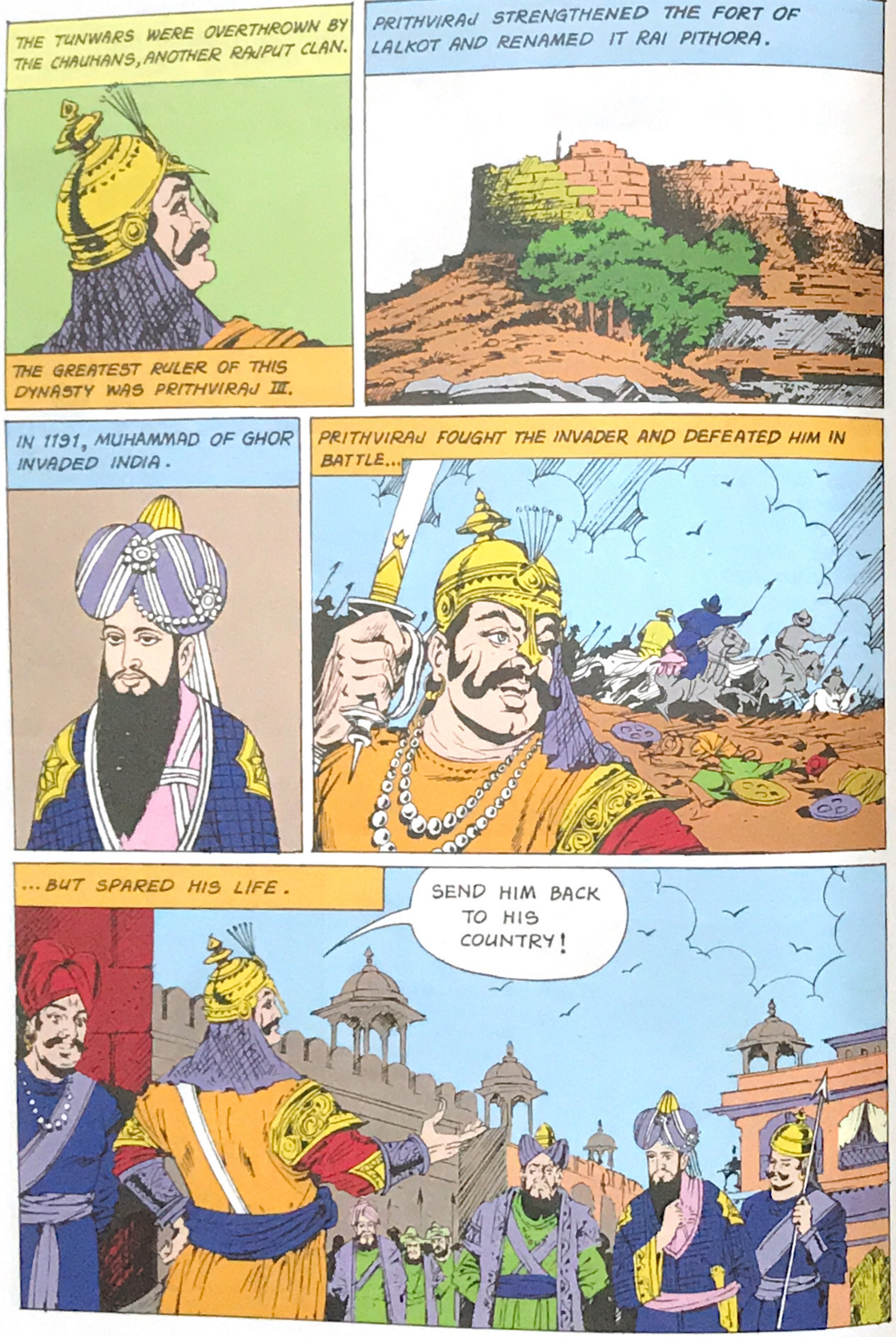
THE HISTORIC CITY OF DELHI

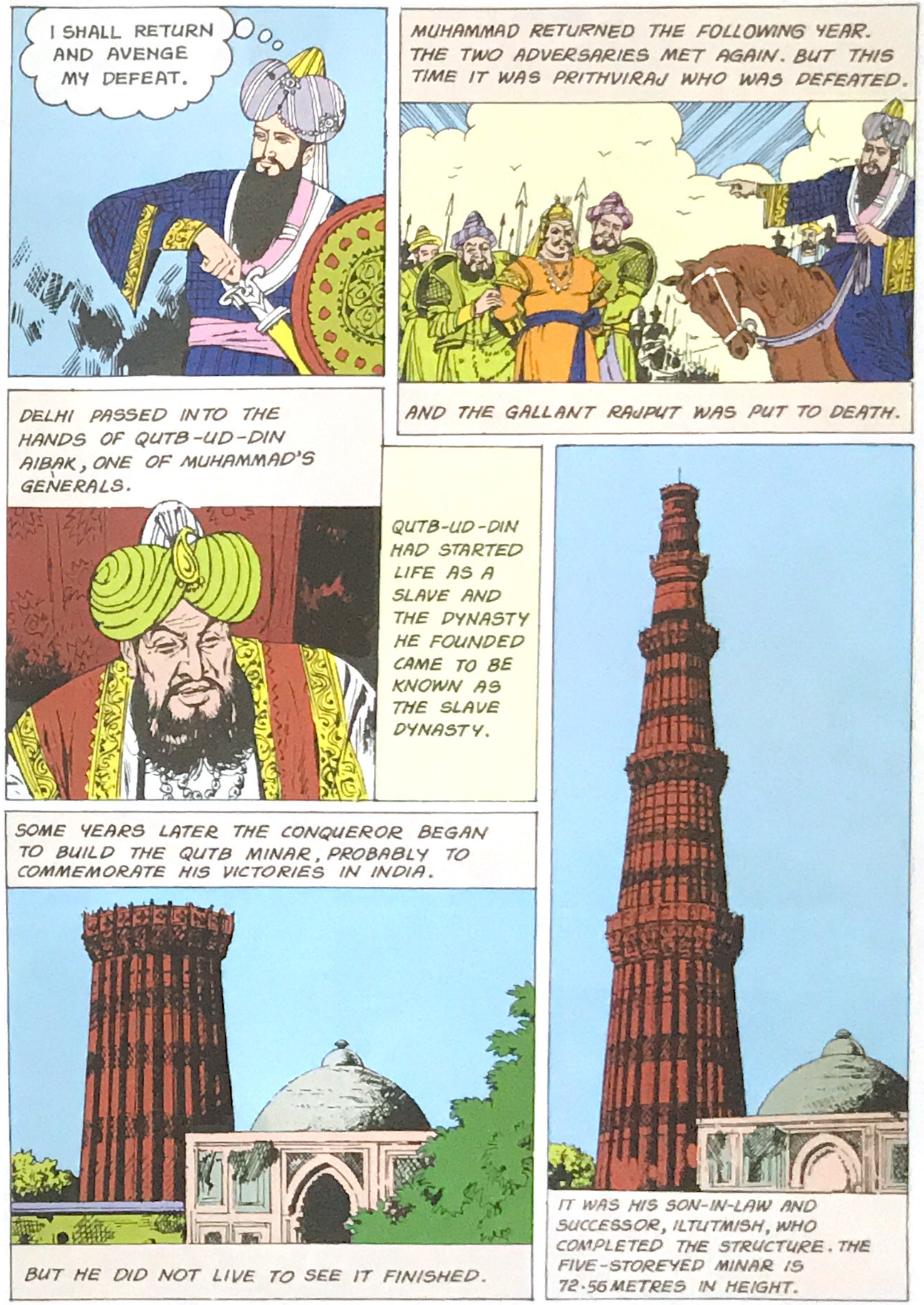
IN 732, THE TUNWARS, A RAJPUT CLAN, MADE DELHI THE CAPITAL OF THEIR KINGDOM. AROUND 1000, THE TUNWARS WERE FACED WITH THE THREAT OF A MUSLIM INVASION FROM THE NORTH-WEST...

...AND THEIR KING, ANANGPAL II, IS SAID TO HAVE BUILT THE CITADEL CALLED THE LALKOT AND TO HAVE PLACED THE IRON PILLAR WITHIN IT. THE PILLAR, REGARDED AS THE STANDARD OF LORD VISHNU, WAS BROUGHT FROM A TEMPLE.

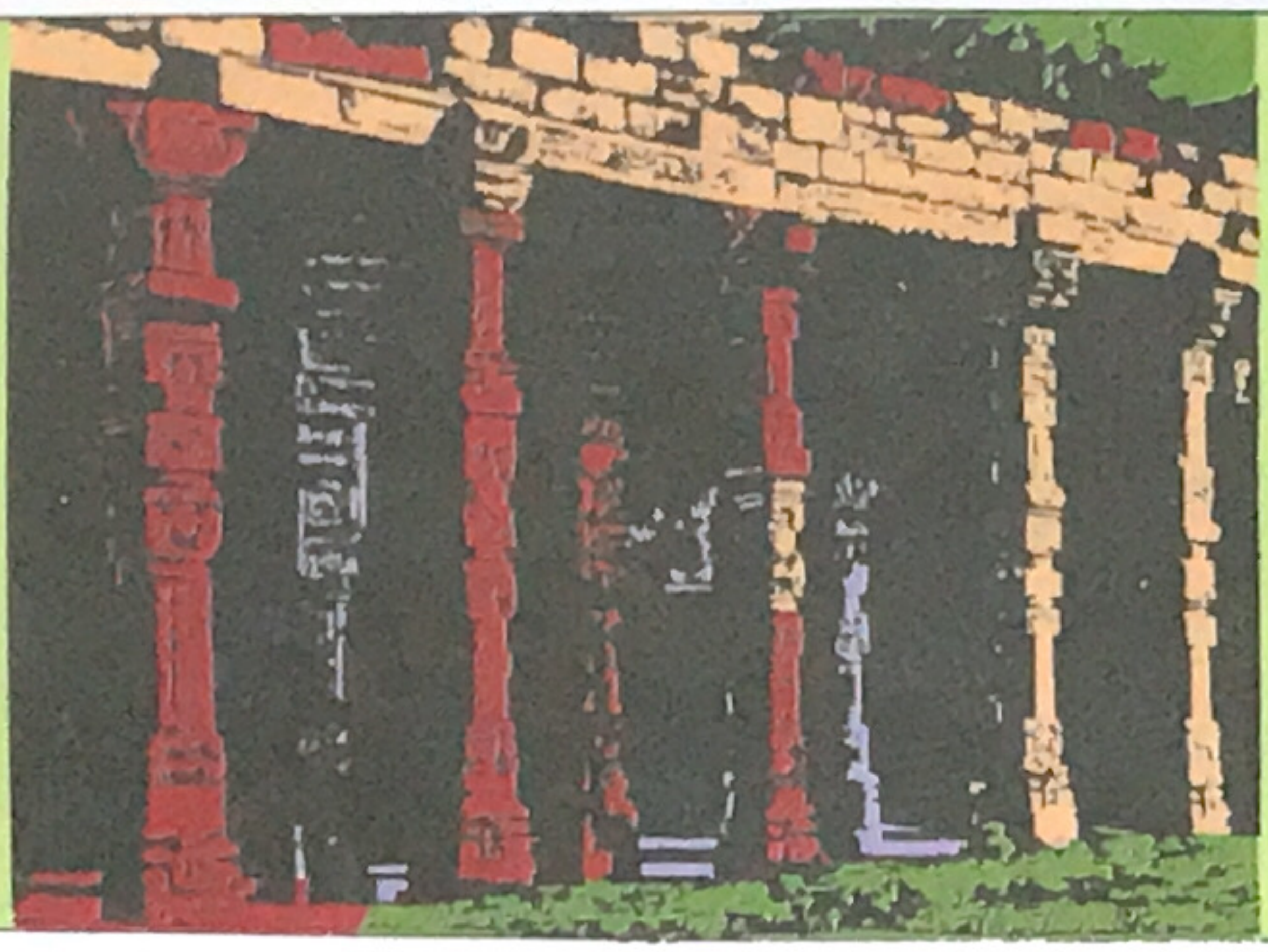
NOTHING MUCH REMAINS OF LALKOT...

...BUT THE IRON PILLAR IS STILL INTACT — A TRIBUTE TO THE METALLURGICAL SKILLS OF ANCIENT INDIANS. THE PILLAR SHOWS NO TRACE OF RUST IN SPITE OF EXPOSURE TO SUN AND RAIN FOR CENTURIES. IT IS NOW AT LEAST 1,600 YEARS OLD.


THE TUNWARS WERE OVERTHROWN BY THE CHAUHANS, ANOTHER RAJPUT CLAN.
THE GREATEST RULER OF THIS DYNASTY WAS PRITHVIRAJ III.
PRITHVIRAJ STRENGTHENED THE FORT OF LALKOT AND RENAMED IT RAI PITHORA.
IN 1191, MUHAMMAD OF GHOR INVADED INDIA.
PRITHVIRAJ FOUGHT THE INVADER AND DEFEATED HIM IN BATTLE...
...BUT SPARED HIS LIFE.
SEND HIM BACK TO HIS COUNTRY!

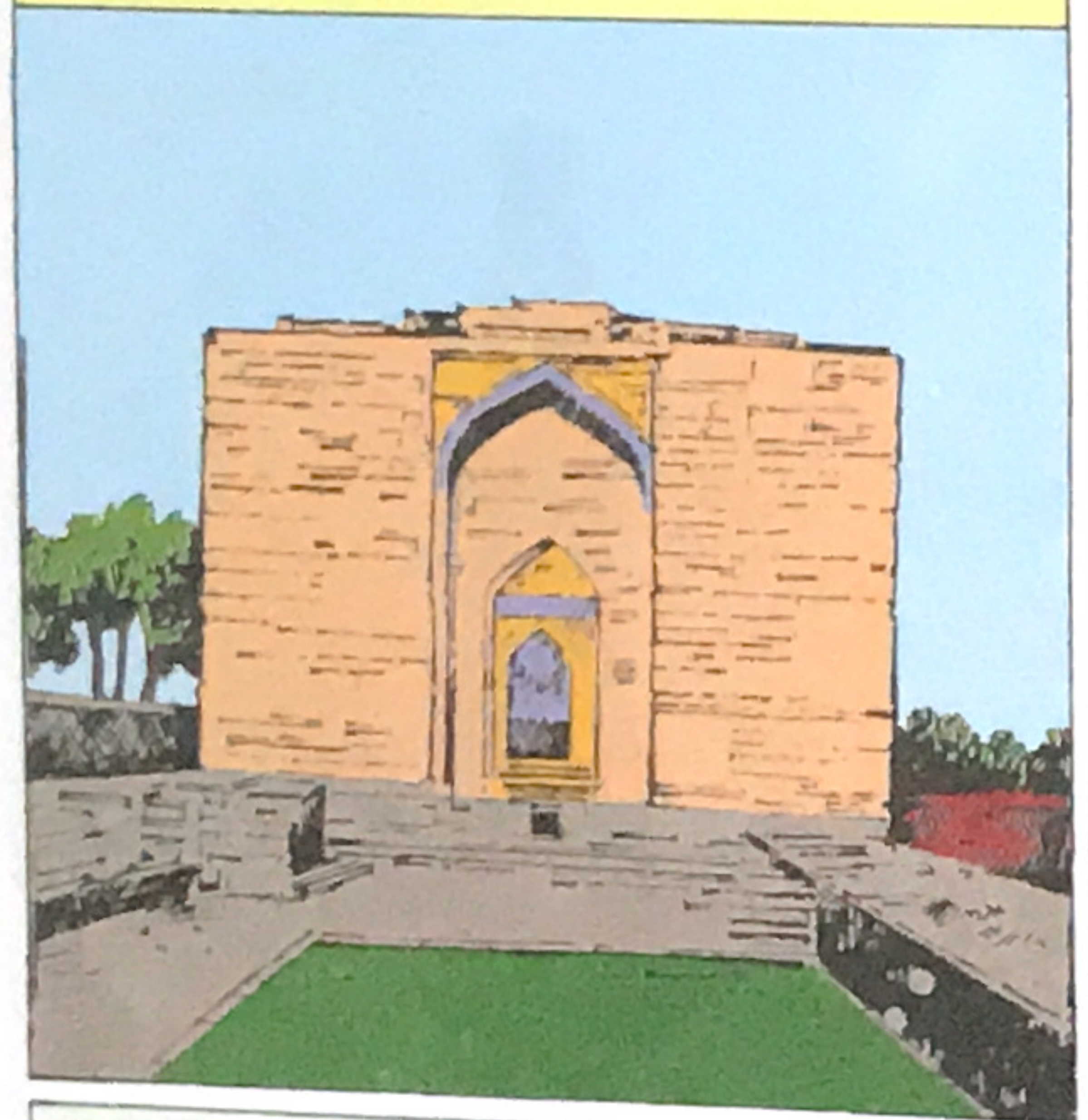

I SHALL RETURN AND AVENGE MY DEFEAT.
MUHAMMAD RETURNED THE FOLLOWING YEAR. THE TWO ADVERSARIES MET AGAIN. BUT THIS TIME IT WAS PRITHVIRAJ WHO WAS DEFEATED.
AND THE GALLANT RAJPUT WAS PUT TO DEATH.
DELHI PASSED INTO THE HANDS OF QUTB-UD-DIN AIBAK, ONE OF MUHAMMAD'S GENERALS.
QUTB-UD-DIN HAD STARTED LIFE AS A SLAVE AND THE DYNASTY HE FOUNDED CAME TO BE KNOWN AS THE SLAVE DYNASTY.
SOME YEARS LATER THE CONQUEROR BEGAN TO BUILD THE QUTB MINAR, PROBABLY TO COMMEMORATE HIS VICTORIES IN INDIA.
BUT HE DID NOT LIVE TO SEE IT FINISHED.
IT WAS HIS SON-IN-LAW AND SUCCESSOR, ILTUTMISH, WHO COMPLETED THE STRUCTURE. THE FIVE-STOREYED MINAR IS 72.56 METRES IN HEIGHT.

NEAR THE MINAR, STAND THE RUINS OF THE FIRST MOSQUE OF THE NORTH — THE QUWWAT-UL-ISLAM OR THE MIGHT OF ISLAM, BUILT BY QUTB-UD-DIN...

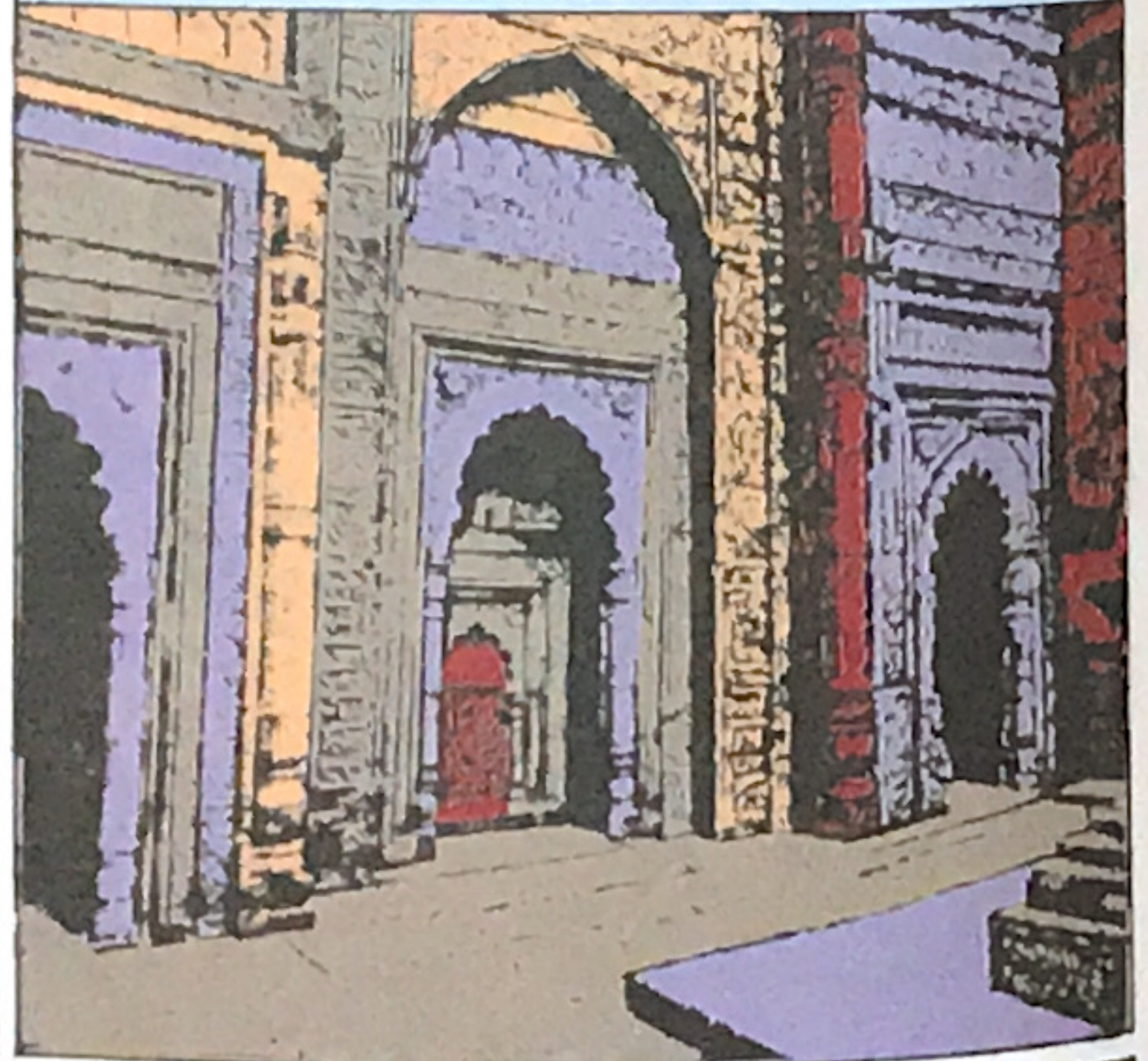


...AND ENLARGED BY ILTUTMISH. ILTUTMISH HAD A GLORIOUS REIGN AND HE CONSOLIDATED MUSLIM POWER IN INDIA.

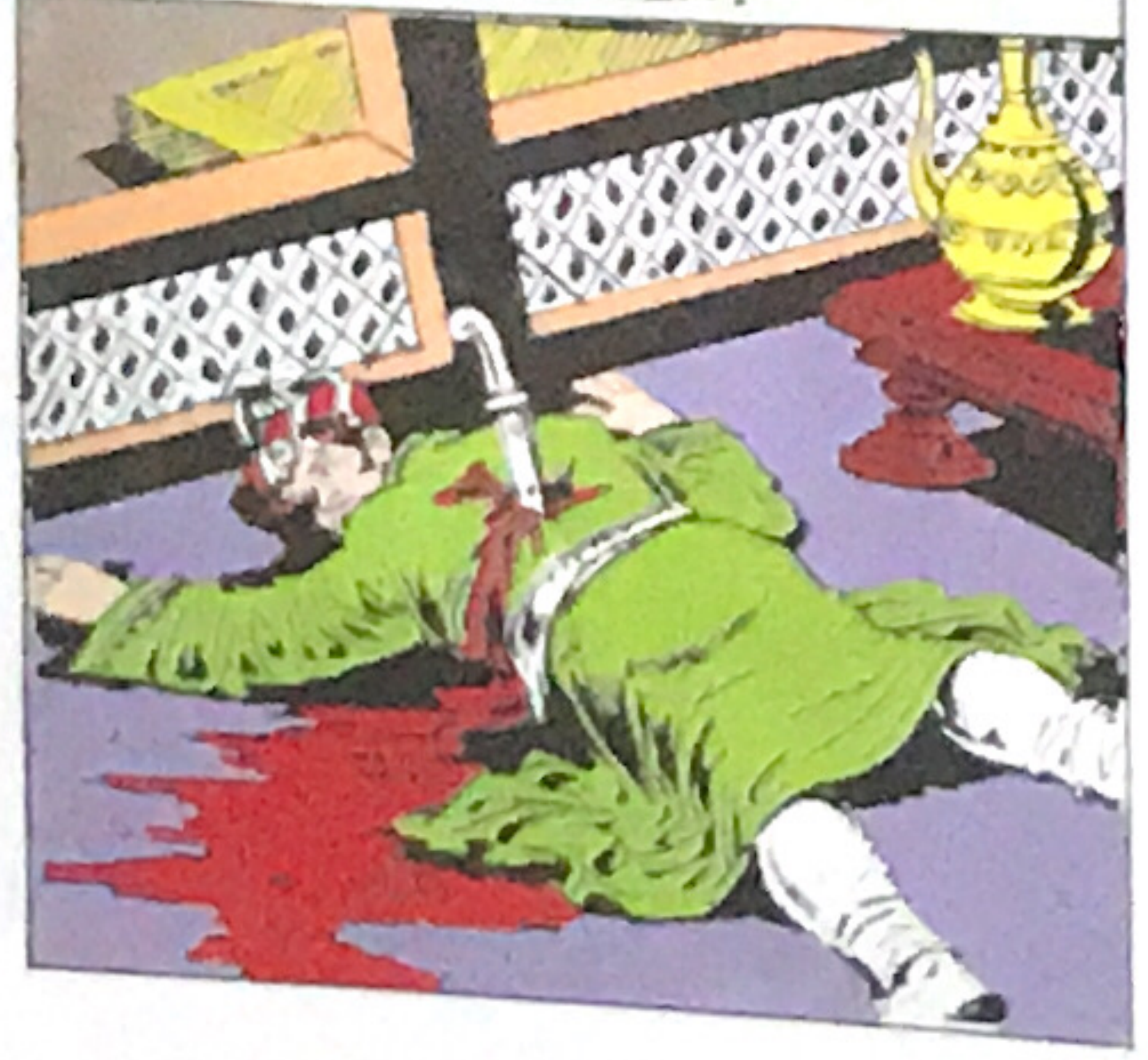
HIS TOMB STANDS ADJACENT TO THE MOSQUE. IT IS SIMPLE ON THE OUTSIDE...



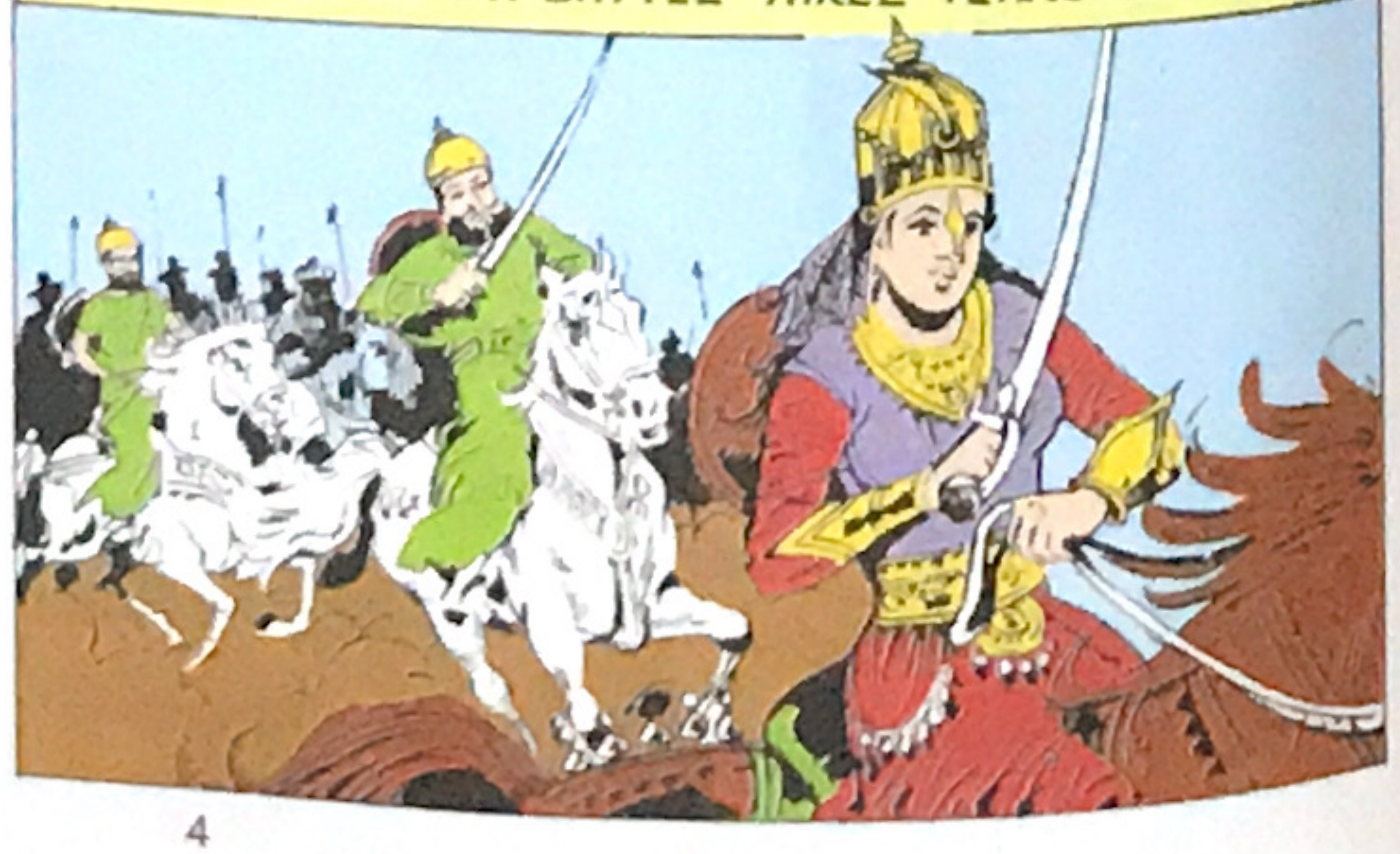
...BUT HAS PROFUSE CARVINGS AND INSCRIPTIONS INSIDE. THERE ARE SEVERAL HINDU MOTIFS AMONG THE CARVINGS, AND BECAUSE OF THIS THE TOMB HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS "ONE OF THE RICHEST EXAMPLES OF HINDU ART APPLIED TO MUHAMMADAN PURPOSES."



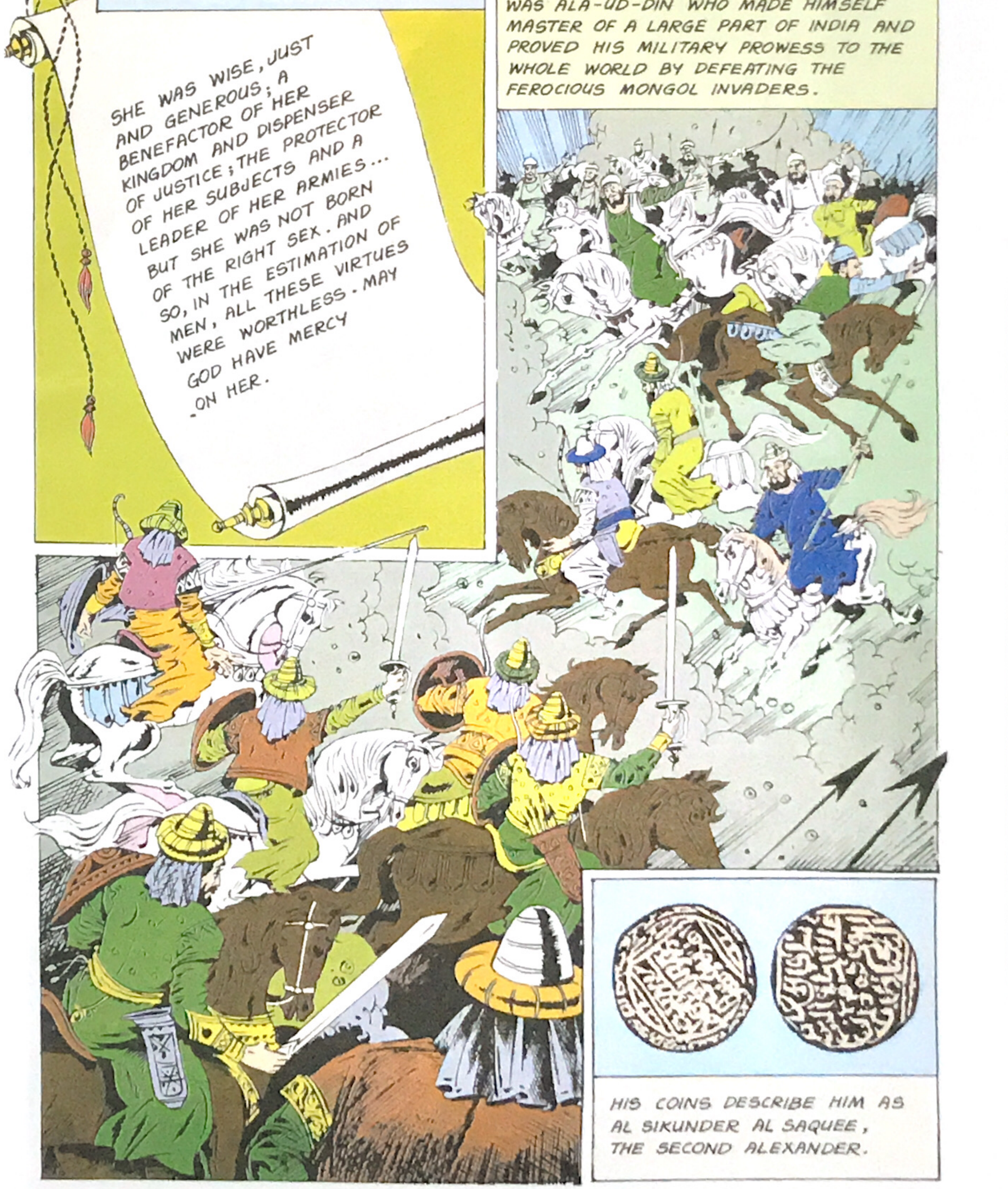
ILTUTMISH'S CHILDREN FOUGHT FOR THE THRONE. ONE BROTHER MURDERED THE OTHER.



FINALLY HIS DAUGHTER, SULTANA RAZIA, SAT ON THE THRONE. BUT SHE COULD NOT HOLD HER OWN IN THE MALE-DOMINATED SOCIETY OF HER TIMES AND LOST HER LIFE IN A BATTLE THREE YEARS LATER.



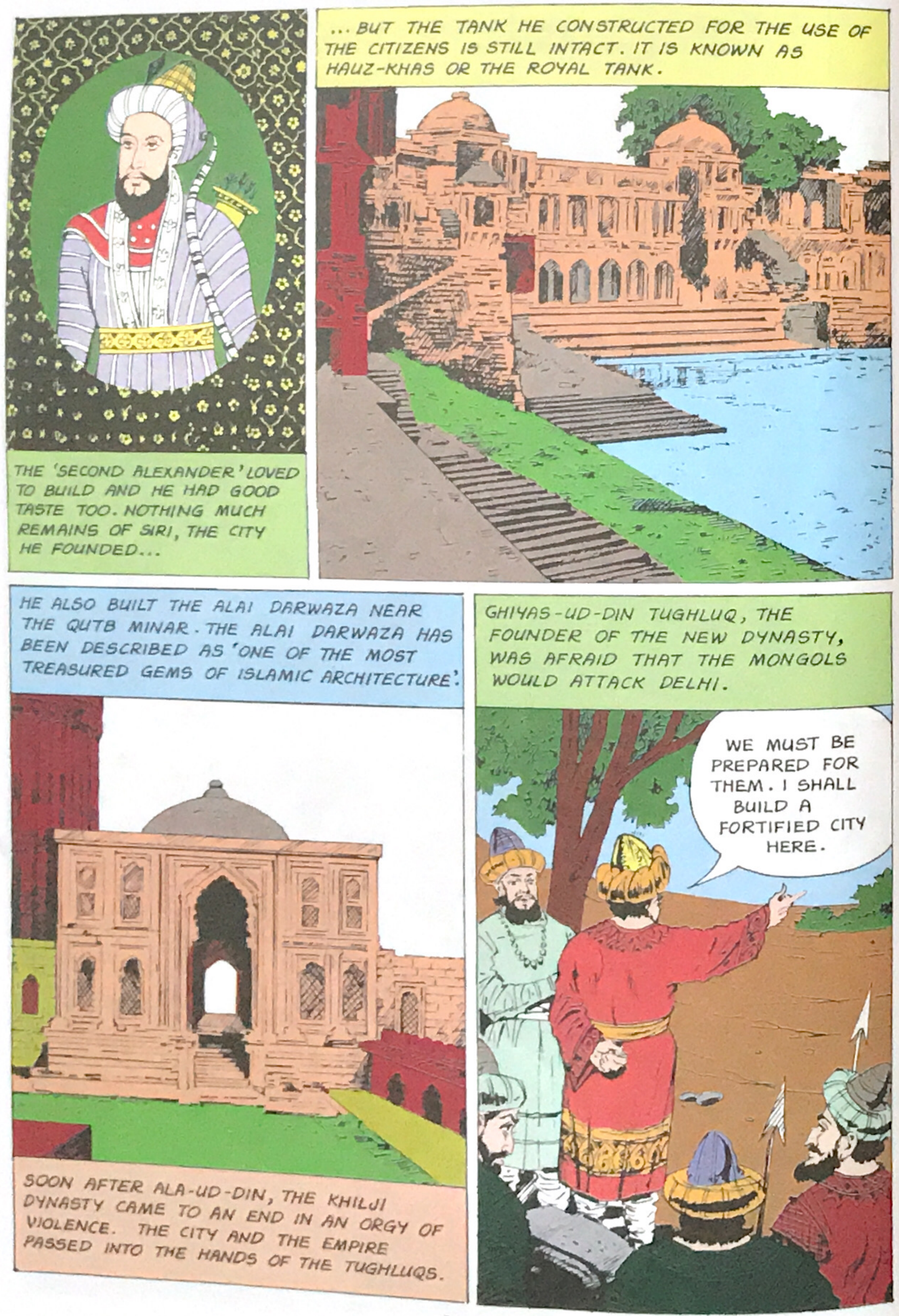
THIS IS HOW A CHRONICLER OF THE TIMES DESCRIBES SULTANA RAZIA:

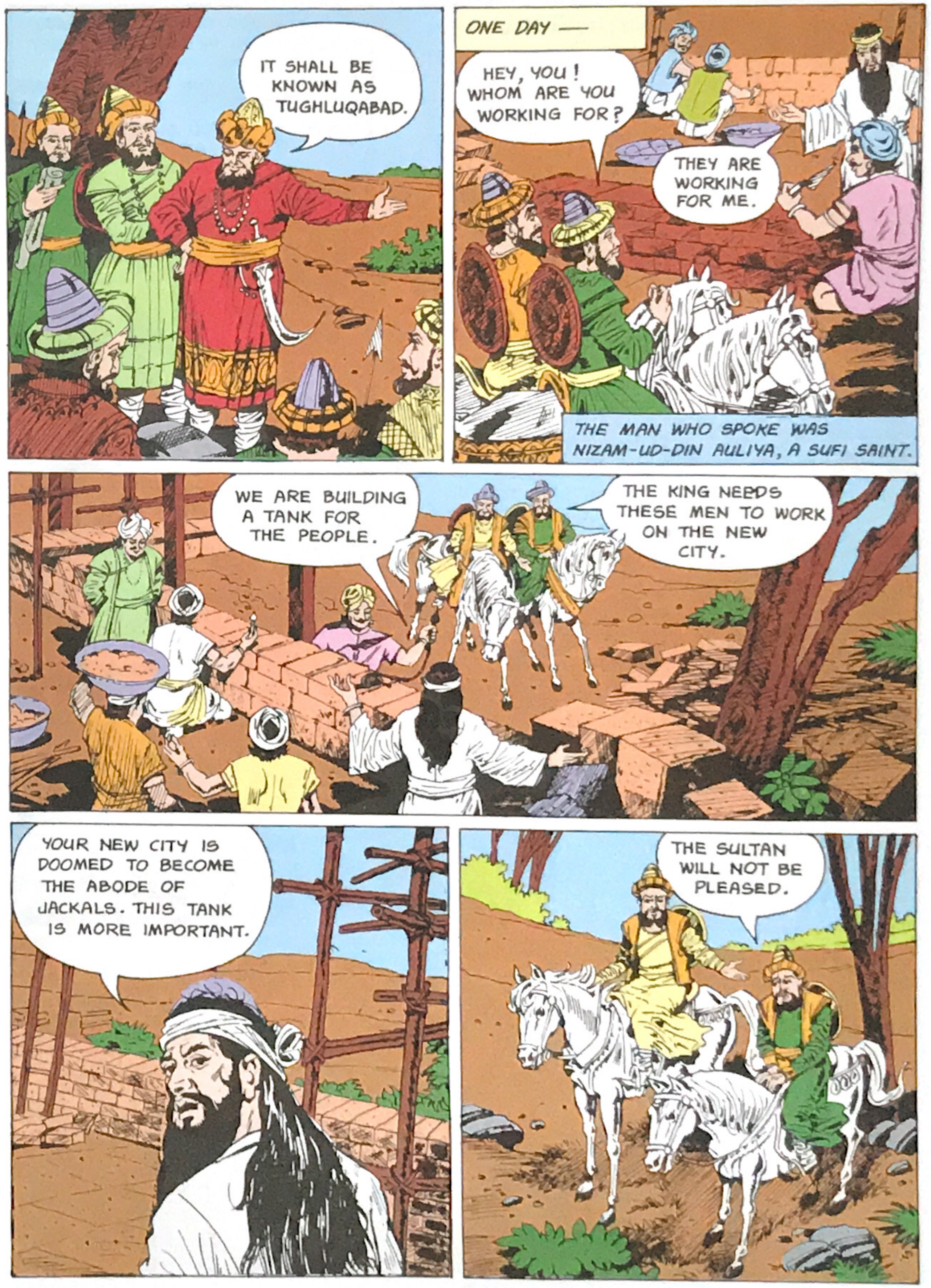


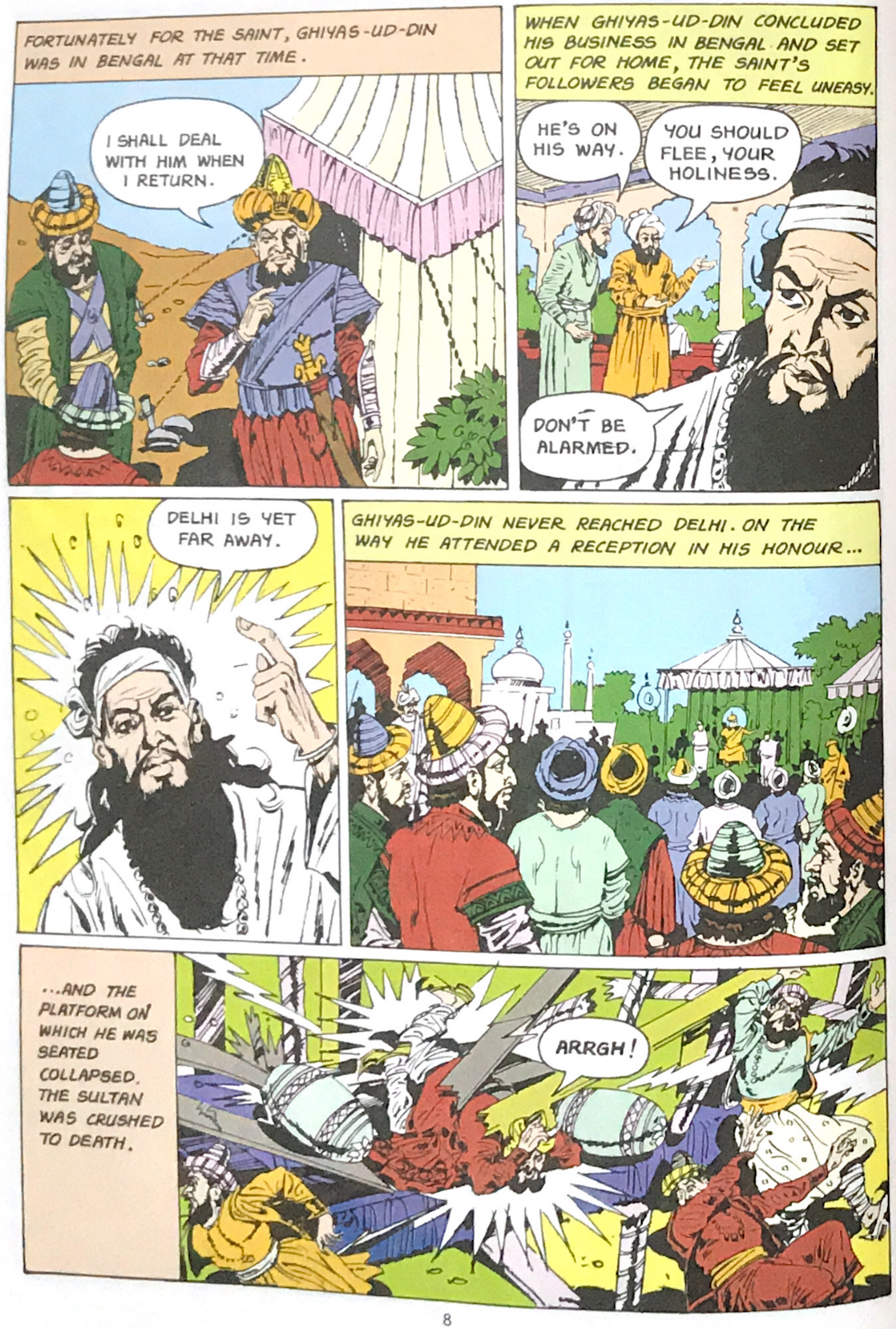
SHE WAS WISE, JUST AND GENEROUS; A BENEFACTOR OF HER KINGDOM AND DISPENSER OF JUSTICE; THE PROTECTOR OF HER SUBJECTS AND A LEADER OF HER ARMIES... BUT SHE WAS NOT BORN OF THE RIGHT SEX. AND SO, IN THE ESTIMATION OF MEN, ALL THESE VIRTUES WERE WORTHLESS. MAY GOD HAVE MERCY ON HER.

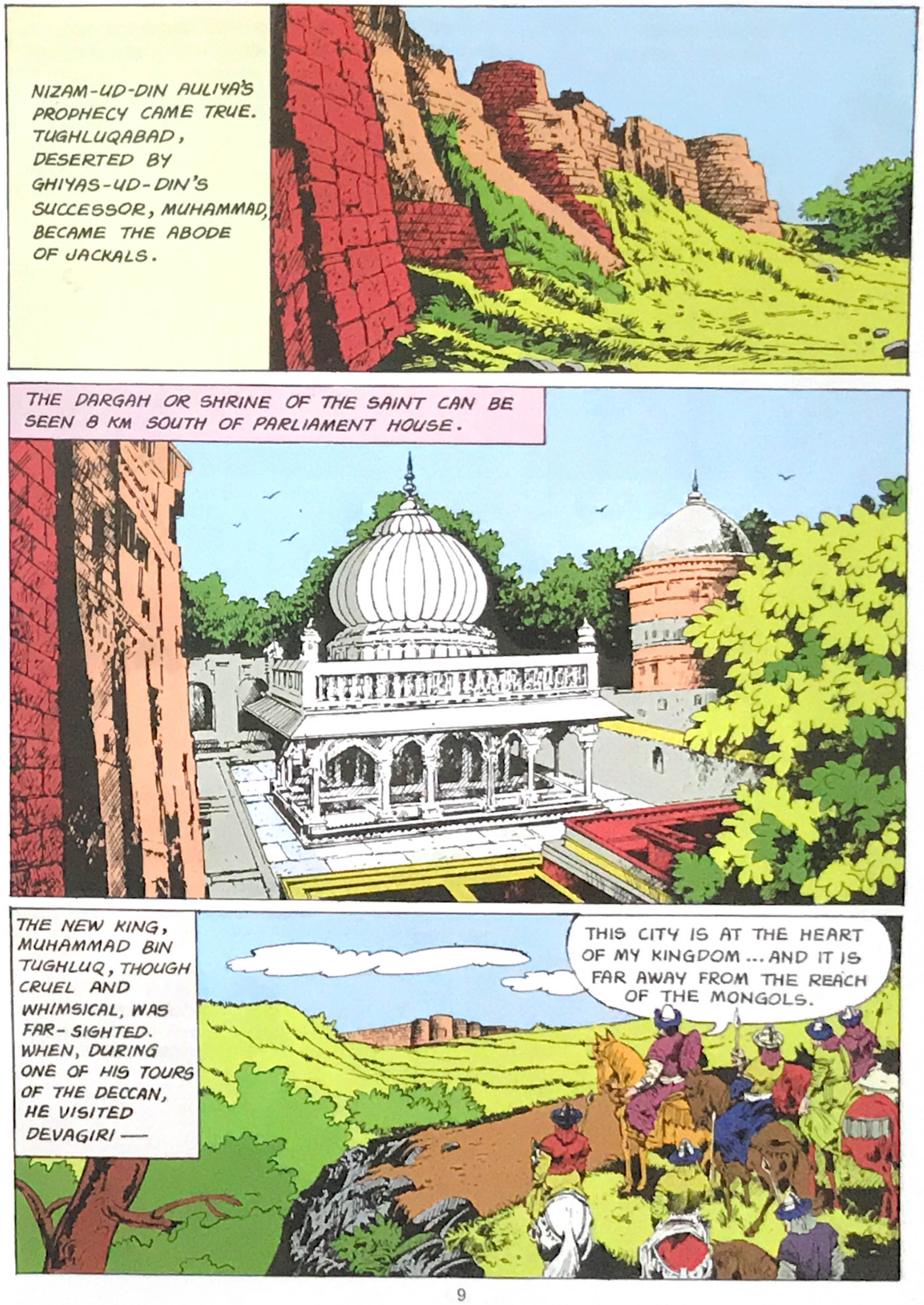
THE SLAVE DYNASTY IN COURSE OF TIME GAVE PLACE TO THE DYNASTY. THE GREATEST KING OF THIS PATHAN DYNASTY WAS ALA-UD-DIN WHO MADE HIMSELF MASTER OF A LARGE PART OF INDIA AND PROVED HIS MILITARY PROWESS TO THE WHOLE WORLD BY DEFEATING THE FEROCIOUS MONGOL INVADERS.

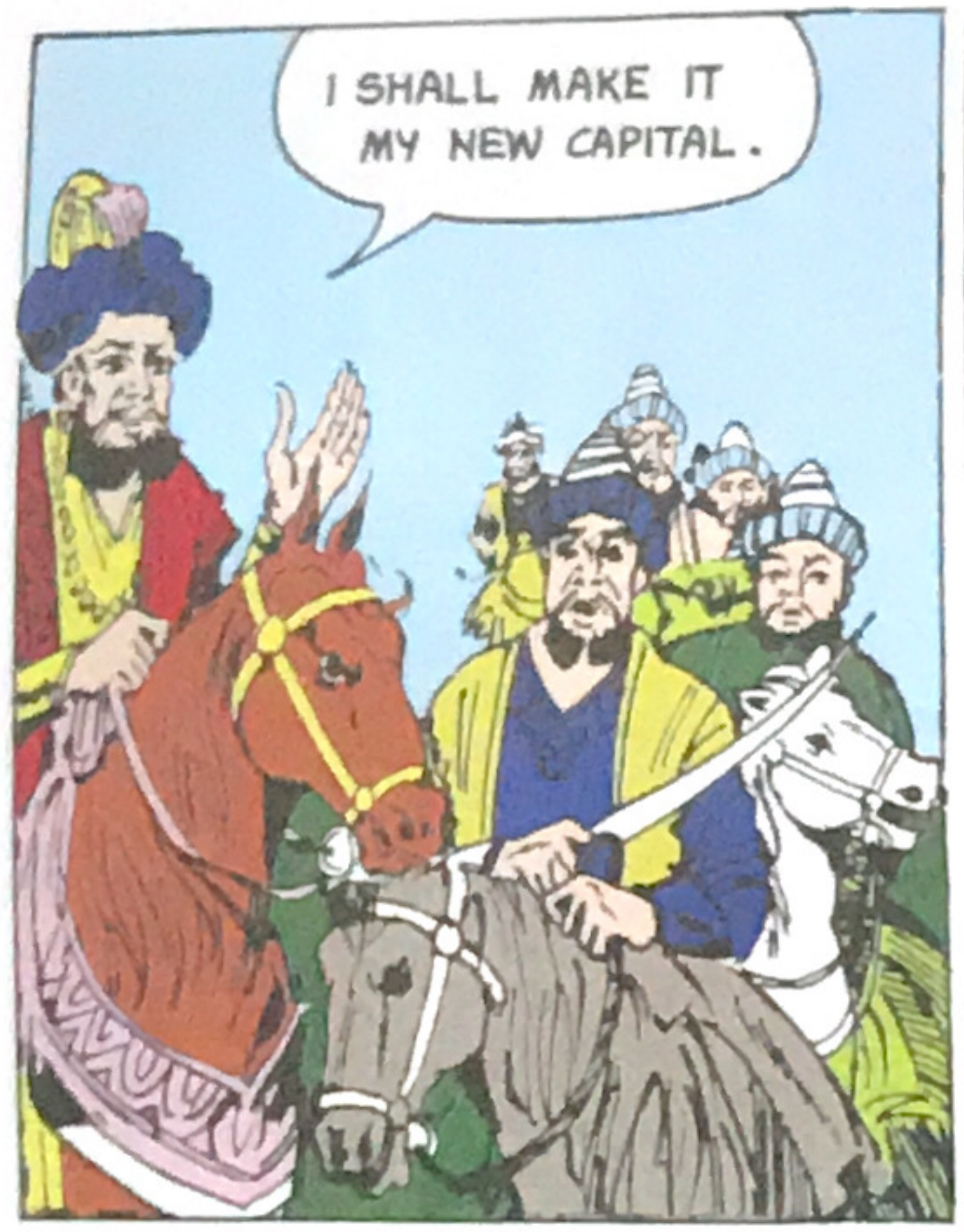
HIS COINS DESCRIBE HIM AS AL SIKUNDER AL SAQUEE, THE SECOND ALEXANDER.


THE 'SECOND ALEXANDER' LOVED TO BUILD AND HE HAD GOOD TASTE TOO. NOTHING MUCH REMAINS OF SIRI, THE CITY HE FOUNDED...
...BUT THE TANK HE CONSTRUCTED FOR THE USE OF THE CITIZENS IS STILL INTACT. IT IS KNOWN AS HAUZ-KHAS OR THE ROYAL TANK.
HE ALSO BUILT THE ALAI DARWAZA NEAR THE QUTB MINAR. THE ALAI DARWAZA HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS 'ONE OF THE MOST TREASURED GEMS OF ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE'.
SOON AFTER ALA-UD-DIN, THE KHILJI DYNASTY CAME TO AN END IN AN ORGY OF VIOLENCE. THE CITY AND THE EMPIRE PASSED INTO THE HANDS OF THE TUGHLUQS.
GHIYAS-UD-DIN TUGHLUQ, THE FOUNDER OF THE NEW DYNASTY, WAS AFRAID THAT THE MONGOLS WOULD ATTACK DELHI.
WE MUST BE PREPARED FOR THEM. I SHALL BUILD A FORTIFIED CITY HERE.

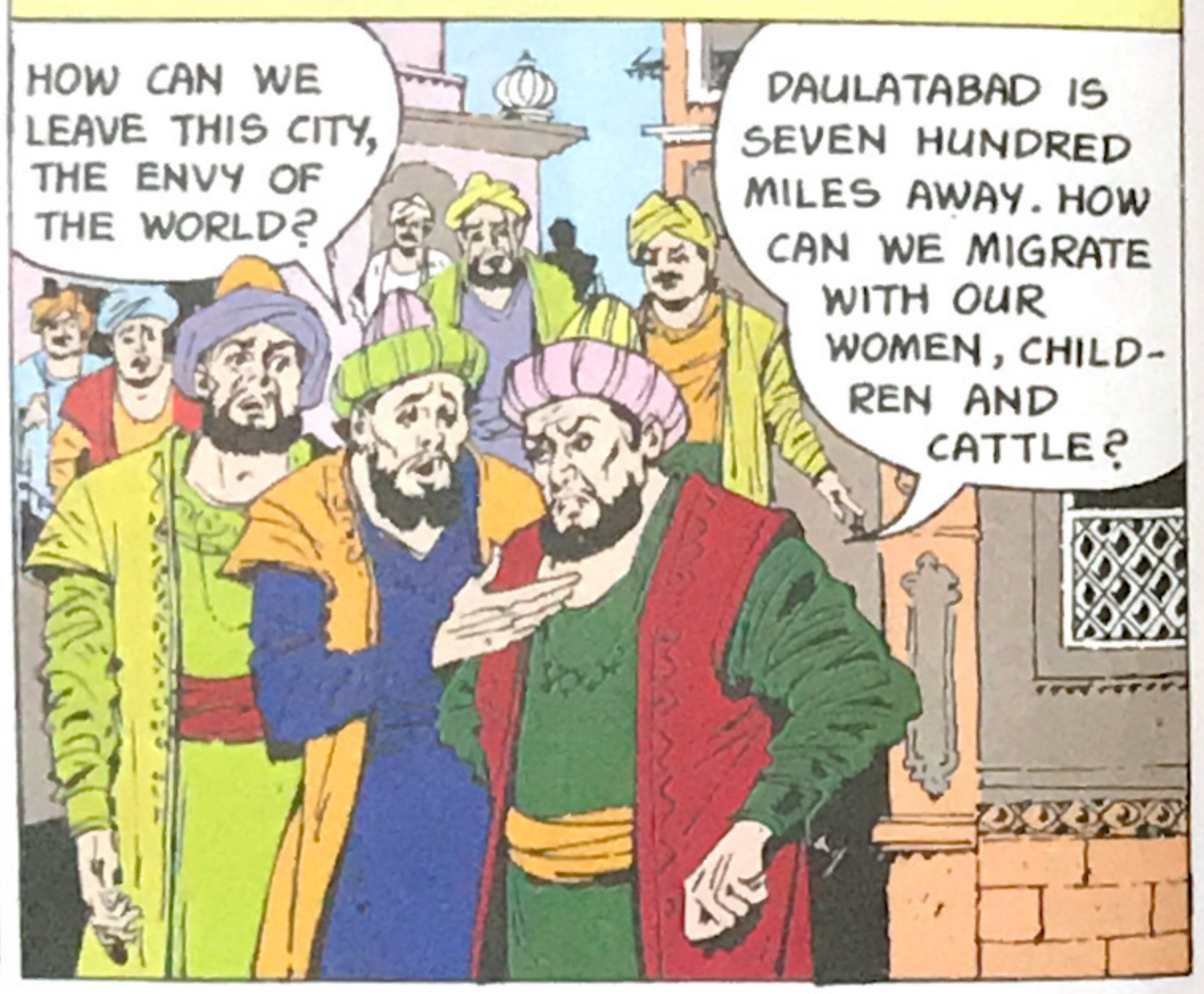

IT SHALL BE KNOWN AS TUGHLUQABAD.
ONE DAY —
HEY, YOU! WHOM ARE YOU WORKING FOR?
THEY ARE WORKING FOR ME.
THE MAN WHO SPOKE WAS NIZAM-UD-DIN AULIYA, A SUFI SAINT.
WE ARE BUILDING A TANK FOR THE PEOPLE.
THE KING NEEDS THESE MEN TO WORK ON THE NEW CITY.
YOUR NEW CITY IS DOOMED TO BECOME THE ABODE OF JACKALS. THIS TANK IS MORE IMPORTANT.
THE SULTAN WILL NOT BE PLEASED.


FORTUNATELY FOR THE SAINT, GHIYAS-UD-DIN WAS IN BENGAL AT THAT TIME.
I SHALL DEAL WITH HIM WHEN I RETURN.
WHEN GHIYAS-UD-DIN CONCLUDED HIS BUSINESS IN BENGAL AND SET OUT FOR HOME, THE SAINT'S FOLLOWERS BEGAN TO FEEL UNEASY.
HE'S ON HIS WAY.
YOU SHOULD FLEE, YOUR HOLINESS.
DON'T BE ALARMED.
DELHI IS YET FAR AWAY.
GHIYAS-UD-DIN NEVER REACHED DELHI. ON THE WAY HE ATTENDED A RECEPTION IN HIS HONOUR...
...AND THE PLATFORM ON WHICH HE WAS SEATED COLLAPSED. THE SULTAN WAS CRUSHED TO DEATH.
ARRGH!

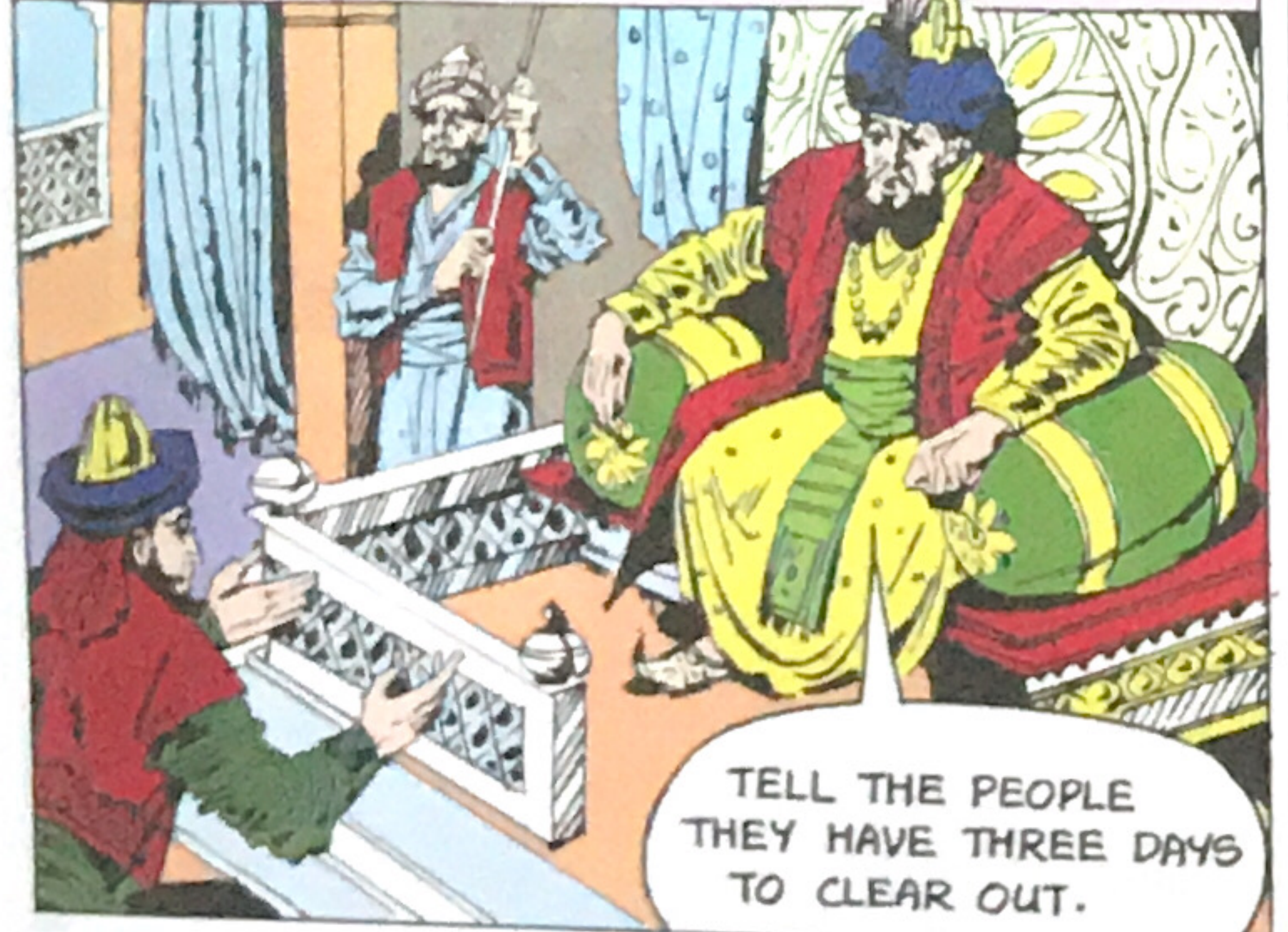

NIZAM-UD-DIN AULIYA'S PROPHECY CAME TRUE. TUGHLUQABAD, DESERTED BY GHIYAS-UD-DIN'S SUCCESSOR, MUHAMMAD, BECAME THE ABODE OF JACKALS.
THE DARGAH OR SHRINE OF THE SAINT CAN BE SEEN 8 KM SOUTH OF PARLIAMENT HOUSE.
THE NEW KING, MUHAMMAD BIN TUGHLUQ, THOUGH CRUEL AND WHIMSICAL, WAS FAR-SIGHTED. WHEN, DURING ONE OF HIS TOURS OF THE DECCAN, HE VISITED DEVAGIRI —
THIS CITY IS AT THE HEART OF MY KINGDOM... AND IT IS FAR AWAY FROM THE REACH OF THE MONGOLS.

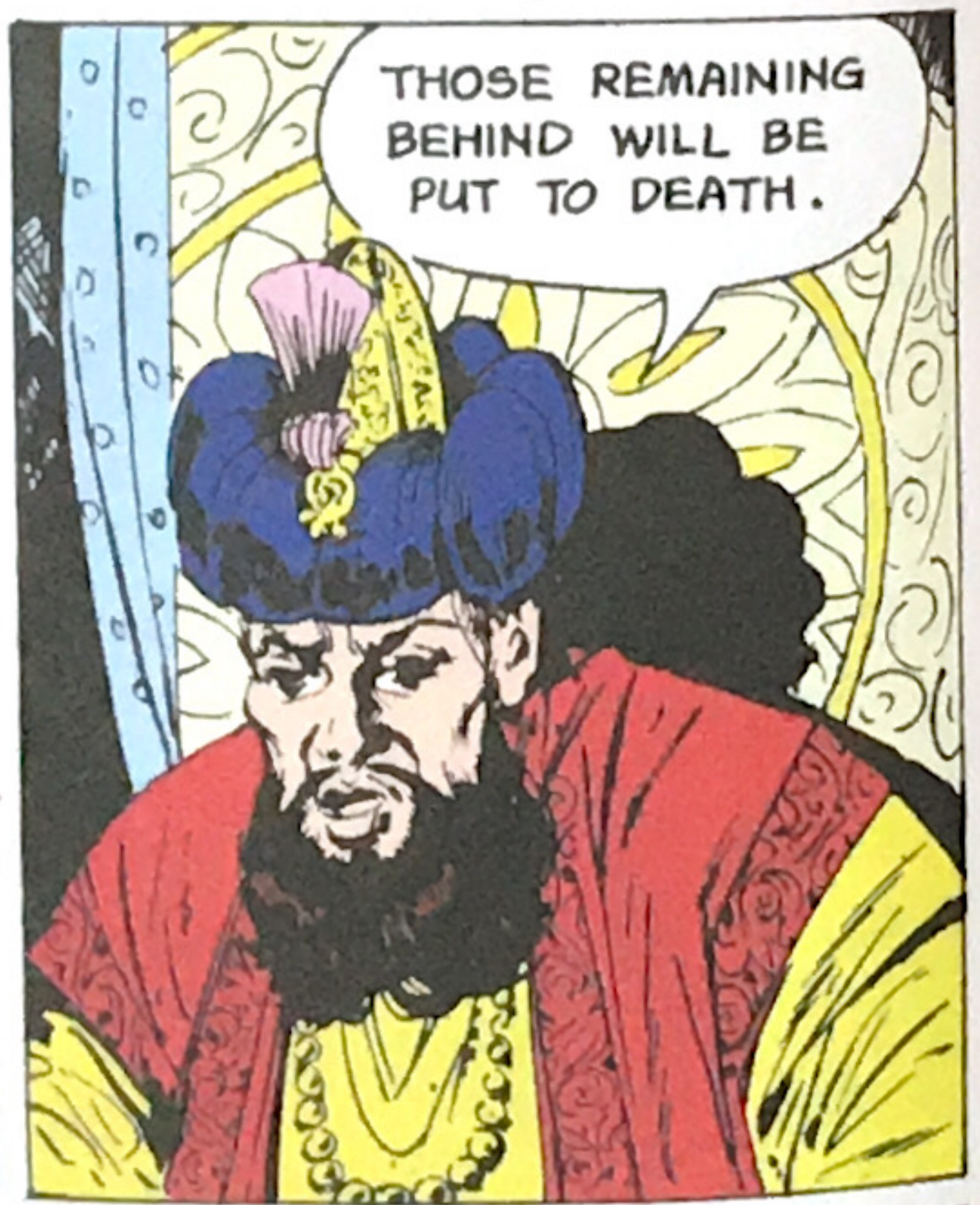

I SHALL MAKE IT MY NEW CAPITAL.

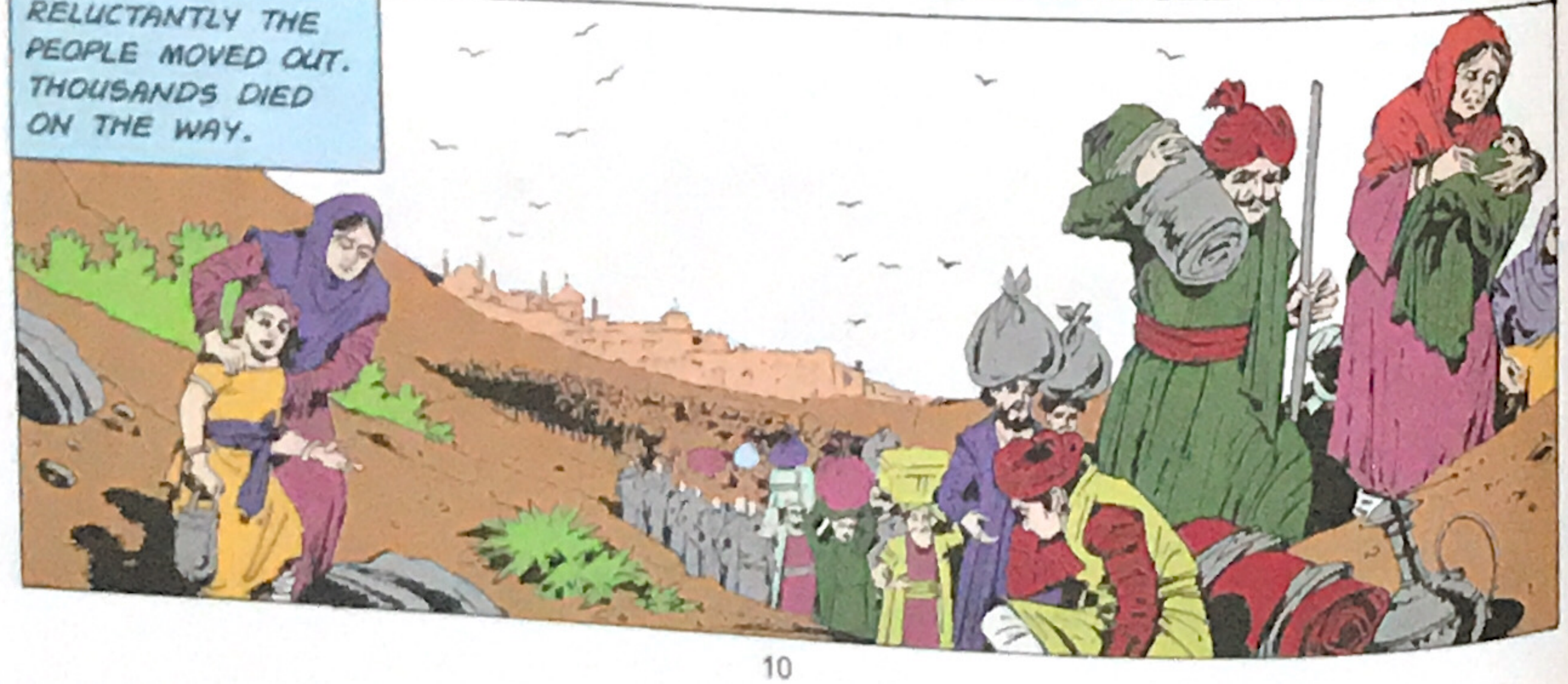
THE PEOPLE OF DELHI WERE ORDERED TO EMIGRATE TO DEVAGIRI, RENAMED DAULATABAD.


HOW CAN WE LEAVE THIS CITY, THE ENVY OF THE WORLD?
DAULATABAD IS SEVEN HUNDRED MILES AWAY. HOW CAN WE MIGRATE WITH OUR WOMEN, CHILDREN AND CATTLE?

BUT THE SULTAN DID NOT CARE HOW THEY WENT AS LONG AS THEY DID.

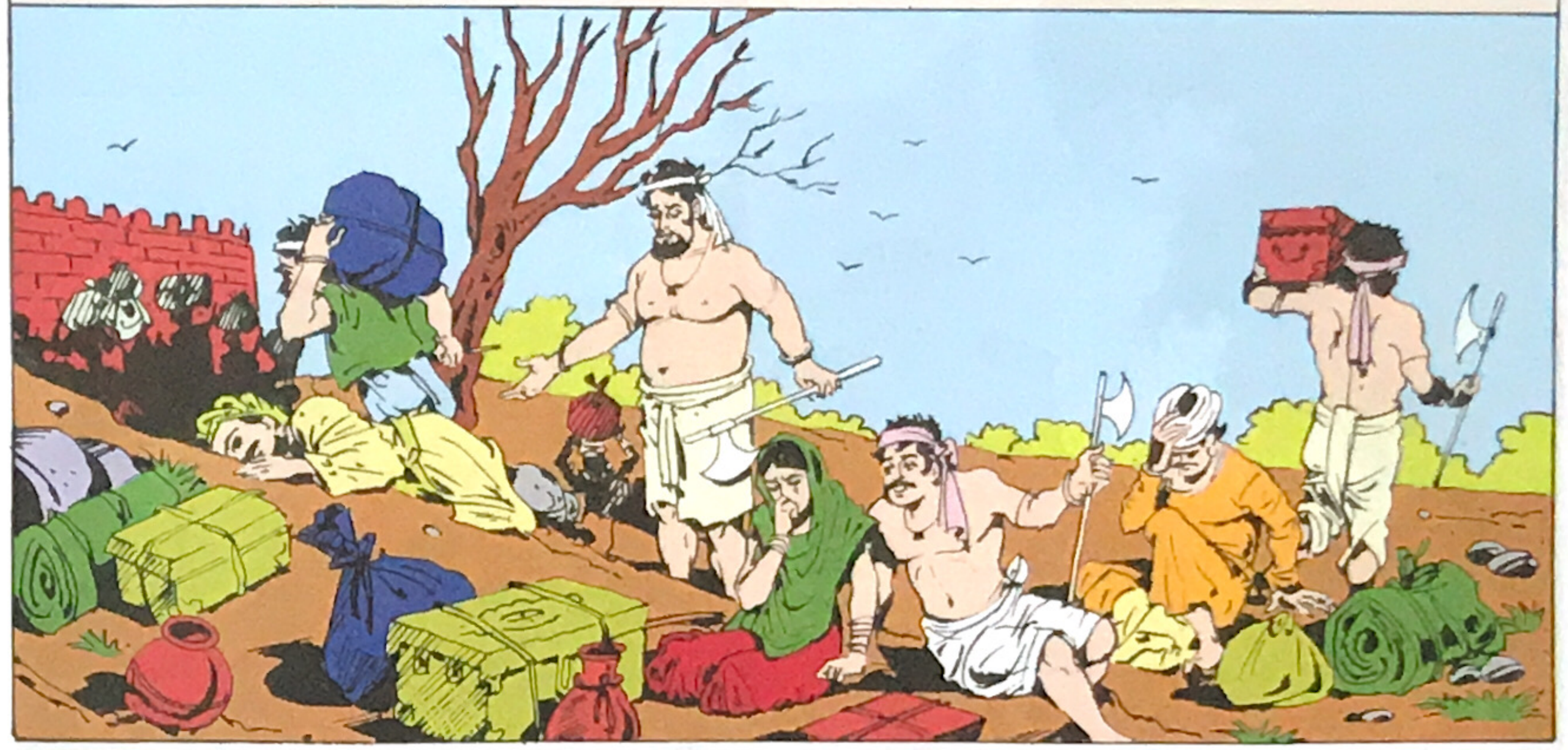

TELL THE PEOPLE THEY HAVE THREE DAYS TO CLEAR OUT.

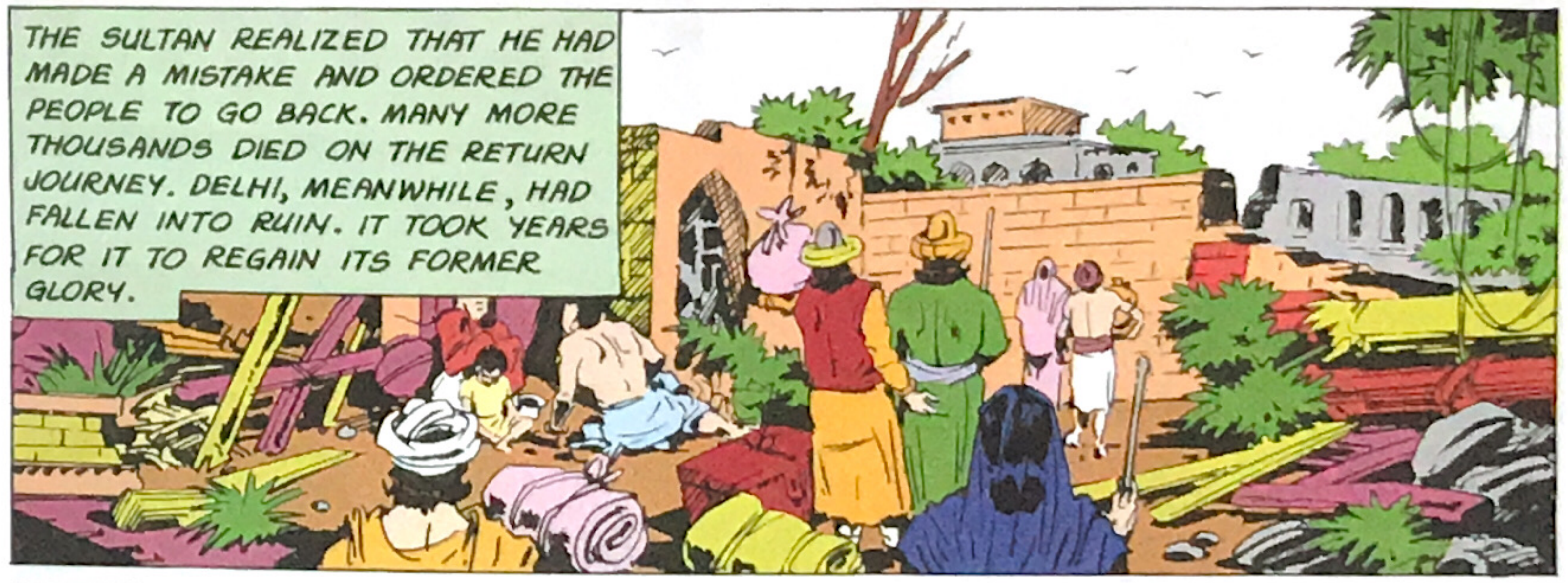

THOSE REMAINING BEHIND WILL BE PUT TO DEATH.



REluctantly THE PEOPLE MOVED OUT. THOUSANDS DIED ON THE WAY.

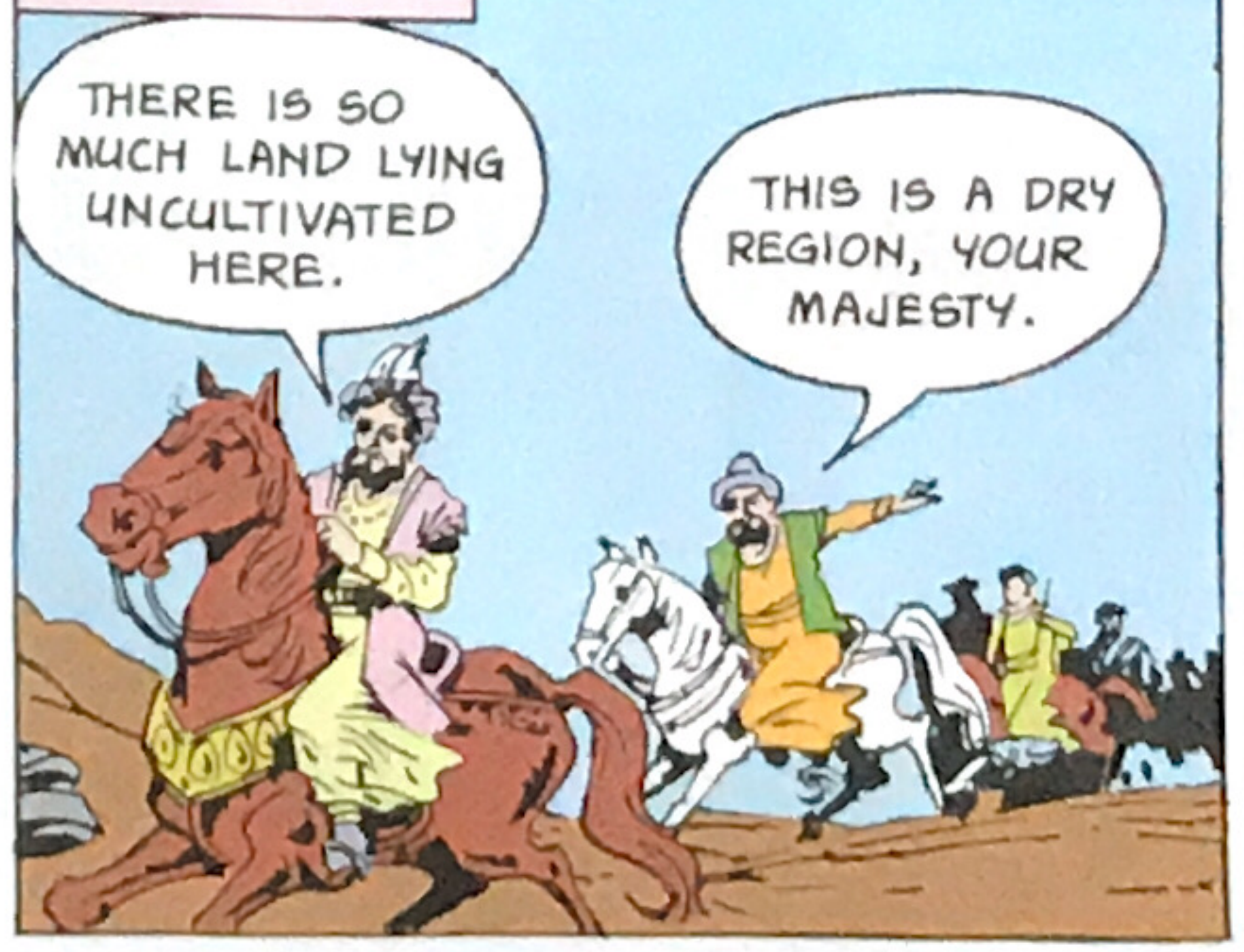
THOSE WHO REACHED THE NEW CAPITAL HAD TO FACE ENORMOUS HARDSHIPS. THEY WERE HOMELESS, JOBLESS AND THEY FELL EASY PREY TO MARAUDERS.

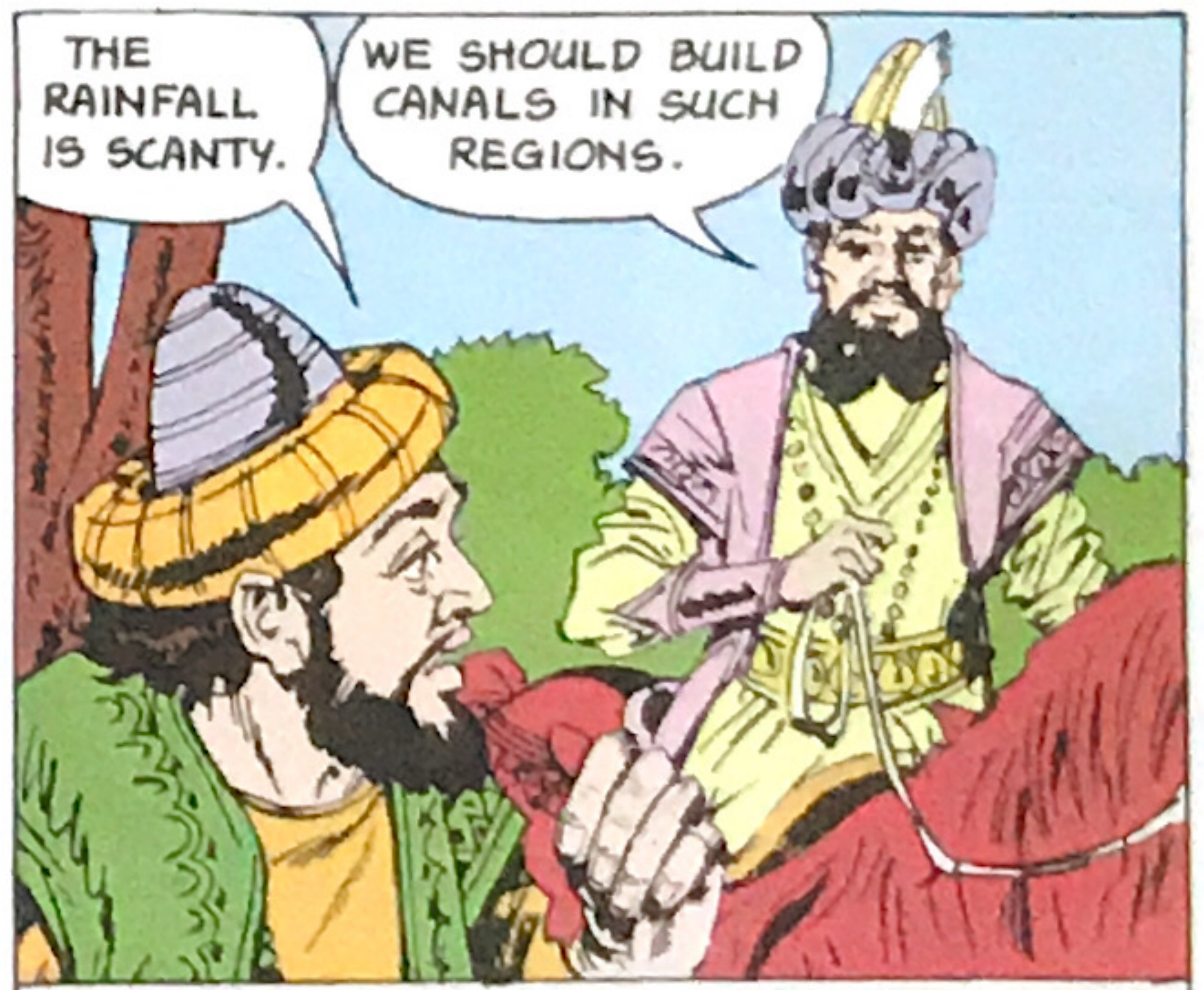




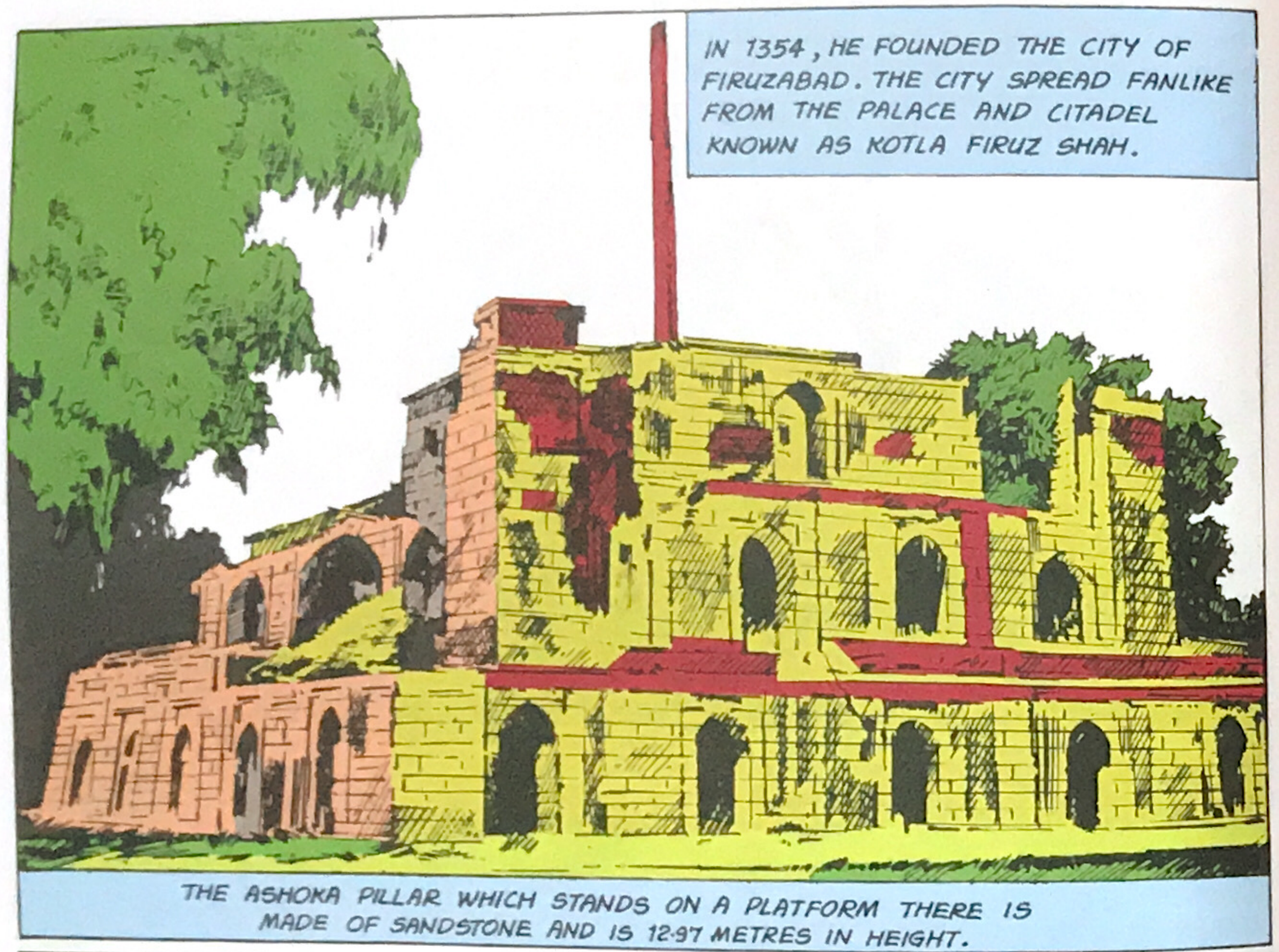
THE SULTAN REALIZED THAT HE HAD MADE A MISTAKE AND ORDERED THE PEOPLE TO GO BACK. MANY MORE THOUSANDS DIED ON THE RETURN JOURNEY. DELHI, MEANWHILE, HAD FALLEN INTO RUIN. IT TOOK YEARS FOR IT TO REGAIN ITS FORMER GLORY.

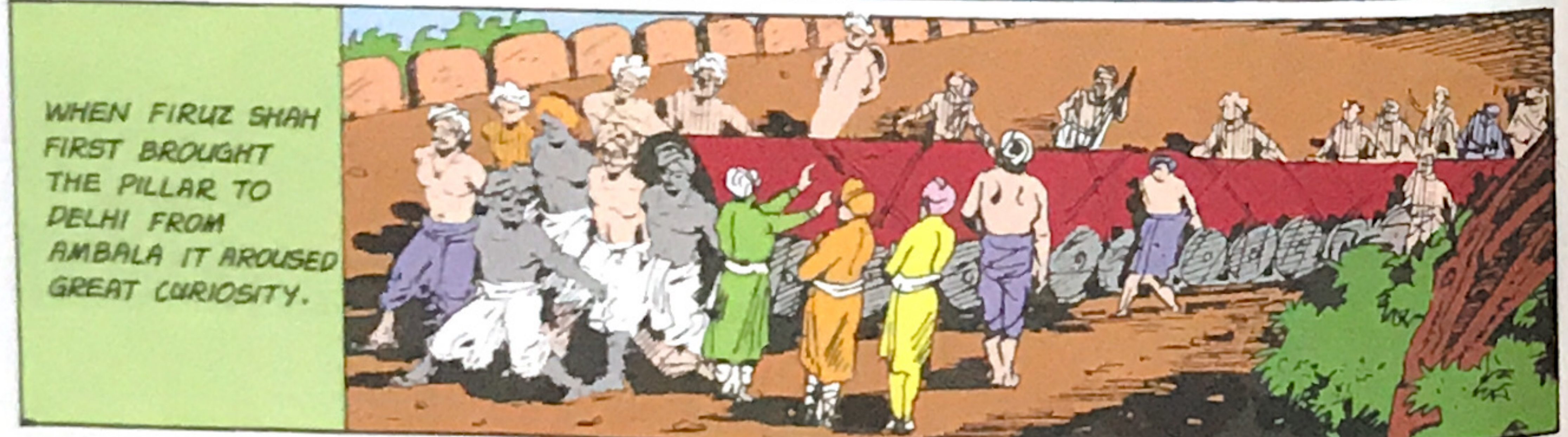
MUHAMMAD TUGHLUQ'S SUCCESSOR WAS FIRUZ SHAH. HE WAS A MAN OF PEACE AND DID MUCH TO IMPROVE THE LOT OF THE PEOPLE.

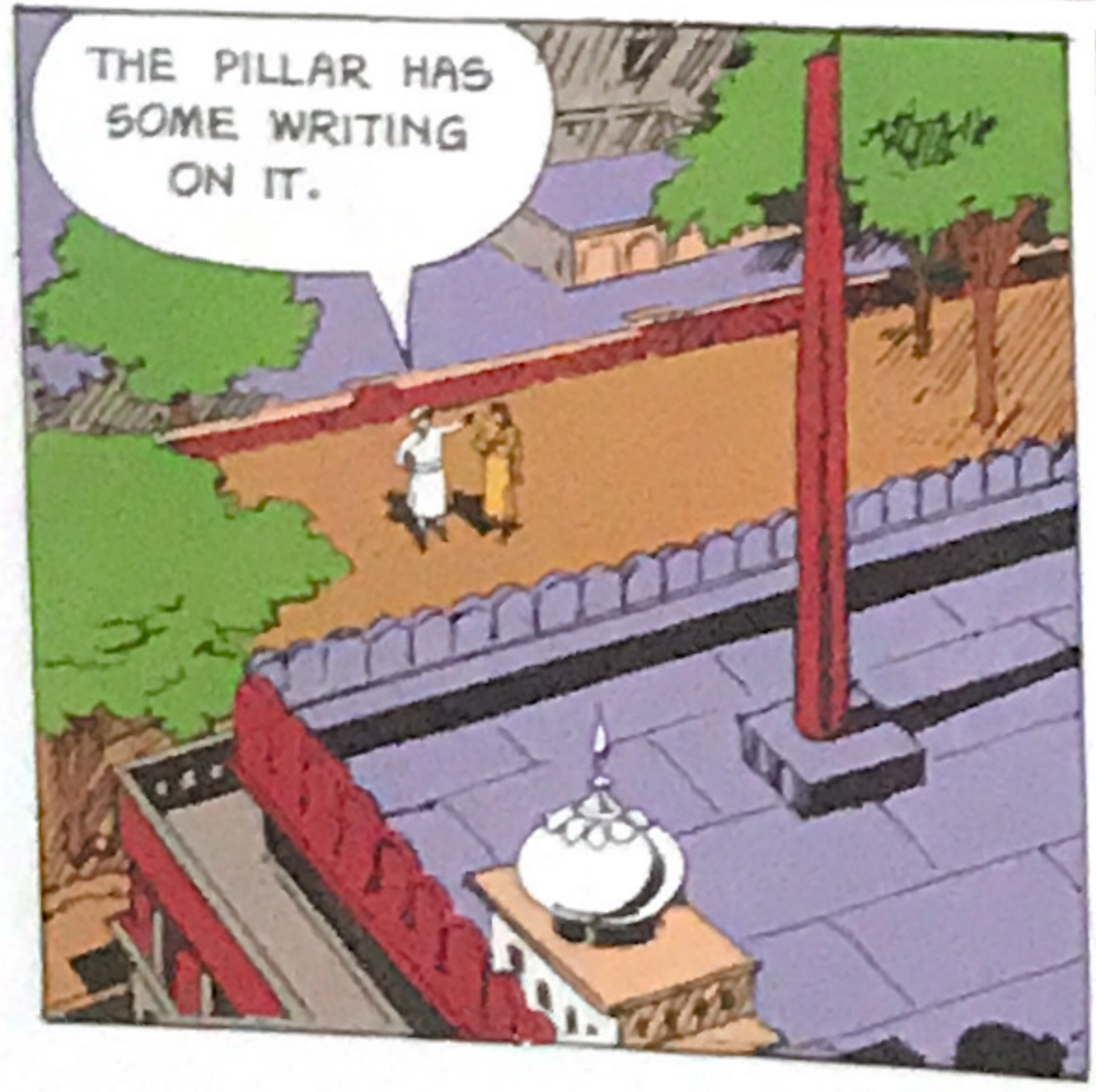

THERE IS SO MUCH LAND LYING UNCULTIVATED HERE.
THIS IS A DRY REGION, YOUR MAJESTY.

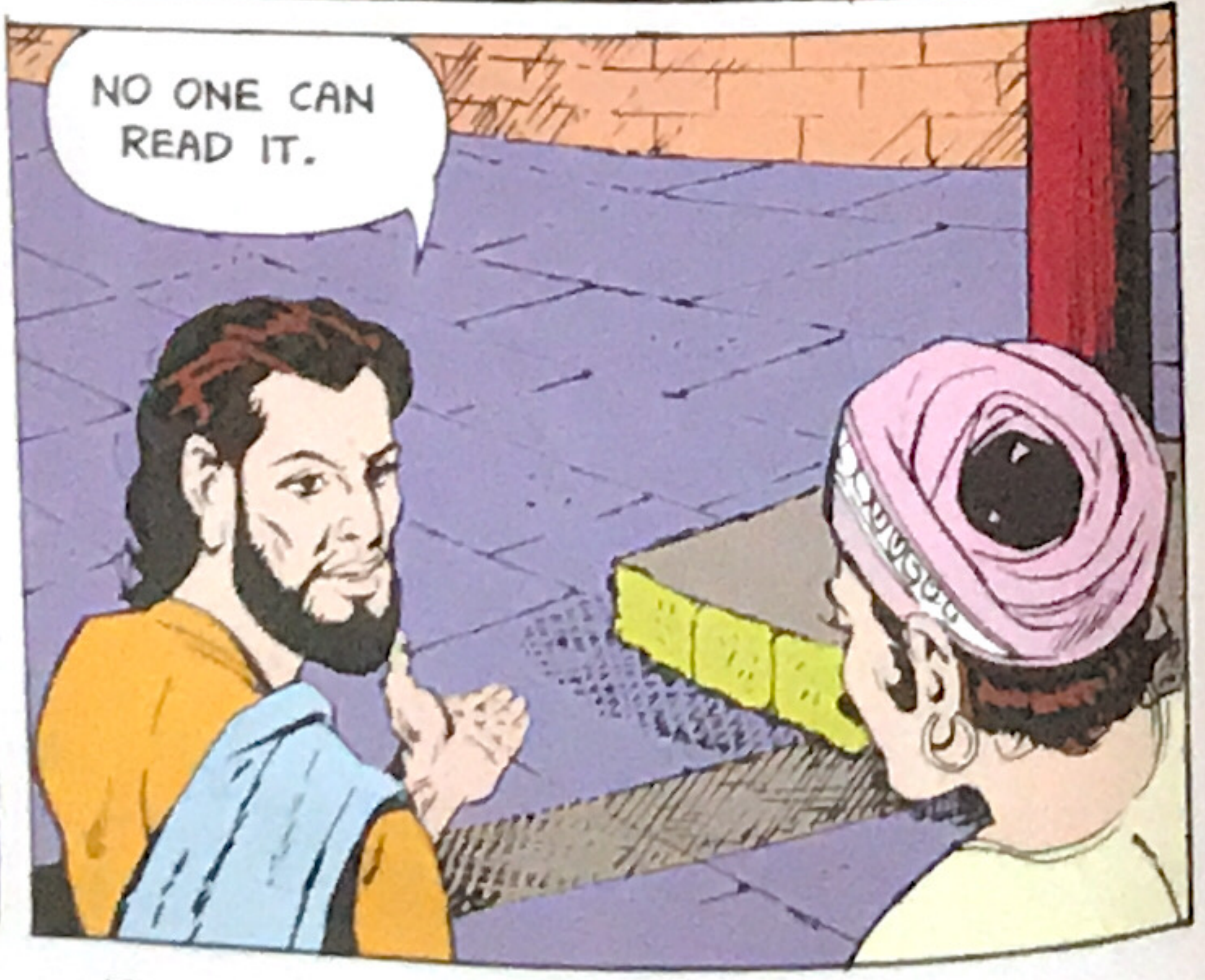

THE RAINFALL IS SCANTY.
WE SHOULD BUILD CANALS IN SUCH REGIONS.

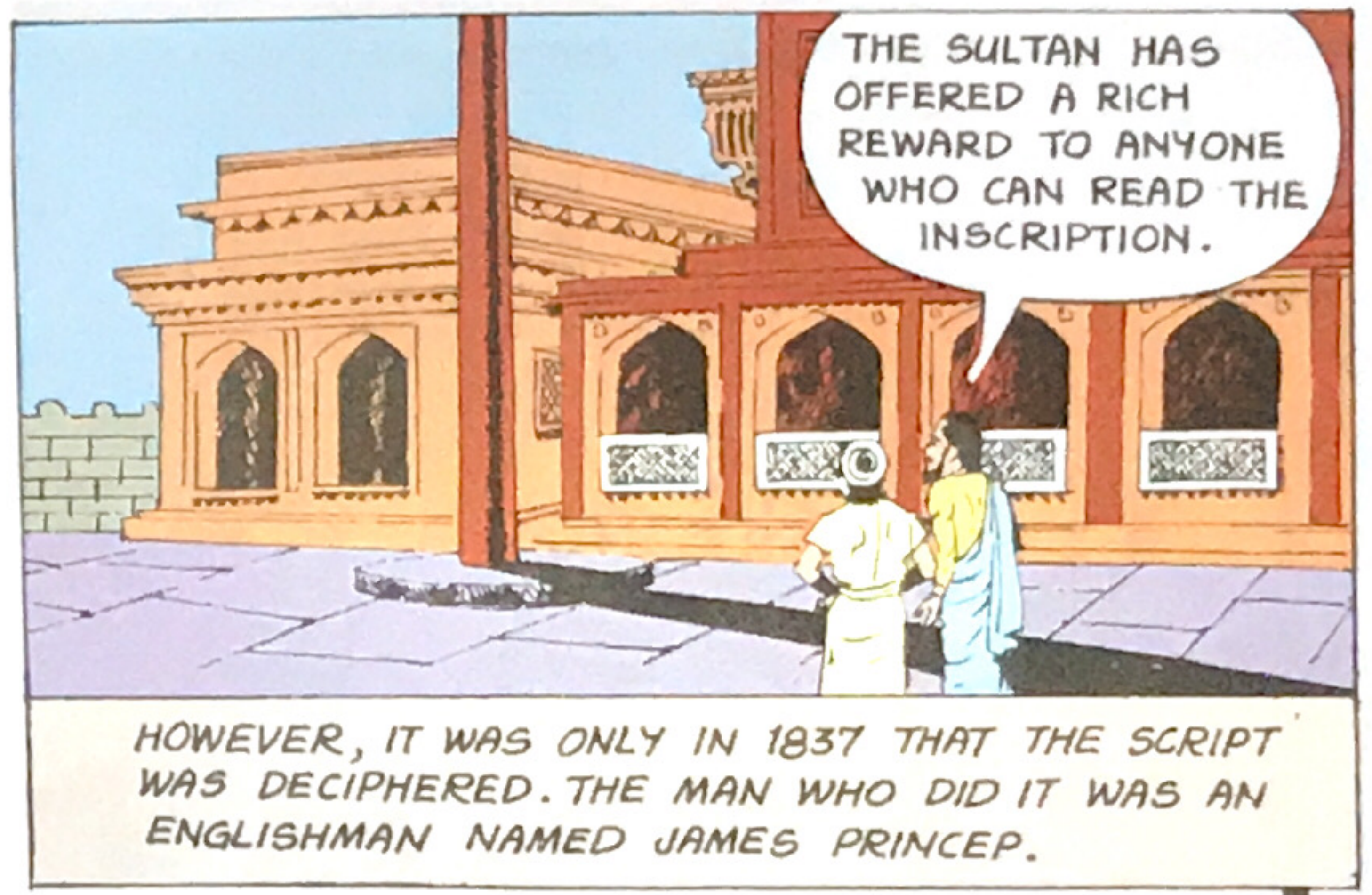
HE CONSTRUCTED FIVE LARGE CANALS IN HIS DOMAIN. ONE OF THEM IS THE WESTERN YAMUNA CANAL OF OUR TIMES.

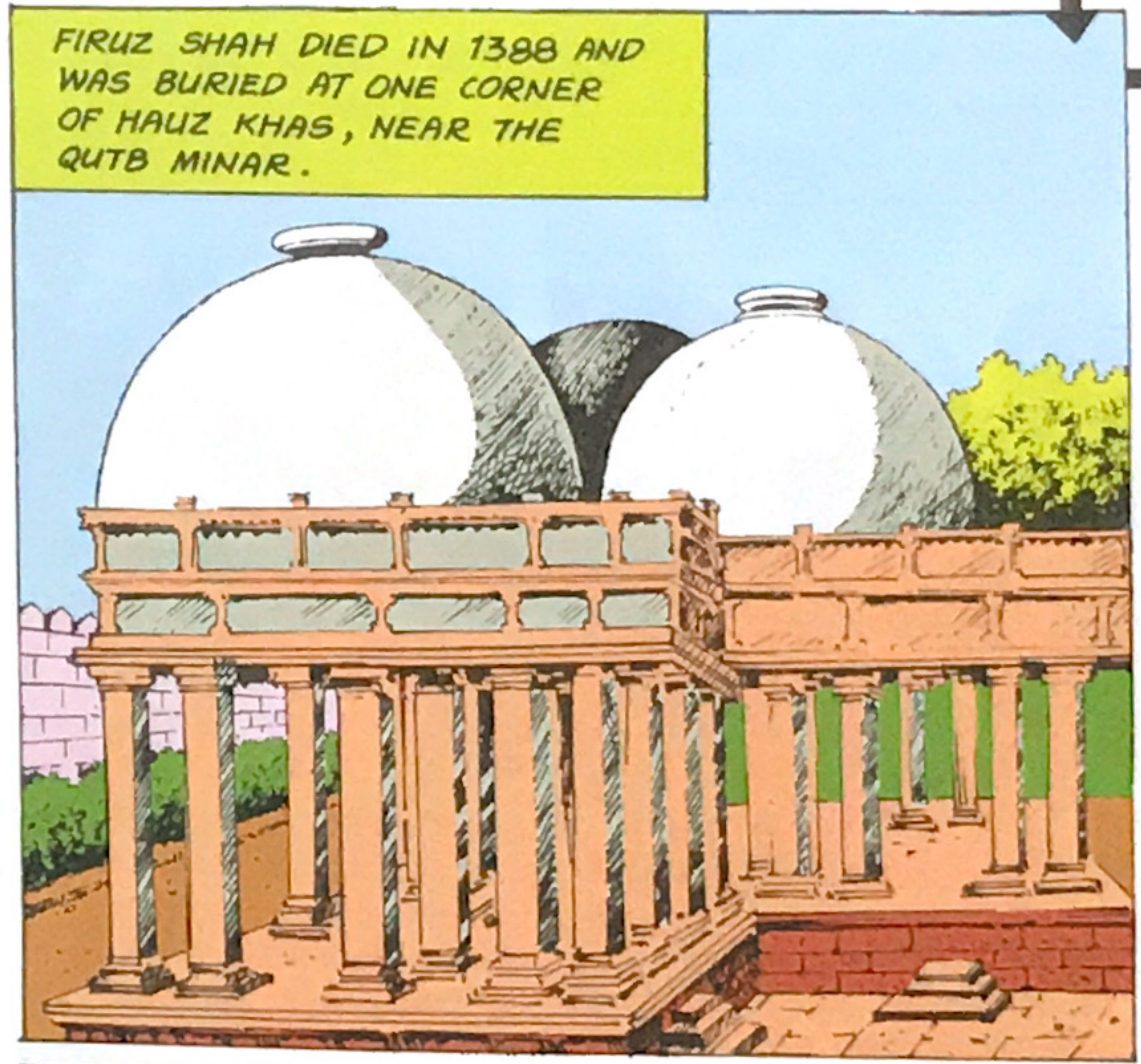

IN 1354, HE FOUNDED THE CITY OF FIRUZABAD. THE CITY SPREAD FANLIKE FROM THE PALACE AND CITADEL KNOWN AS KOTLA FIRUZ SHAH.
THE ASHOKA PILLAR WHICH STANDS ON A PLATFORM THERE IS MADE OF SANDSTONE AND IS 12.97 METRES IN HEIGHT.

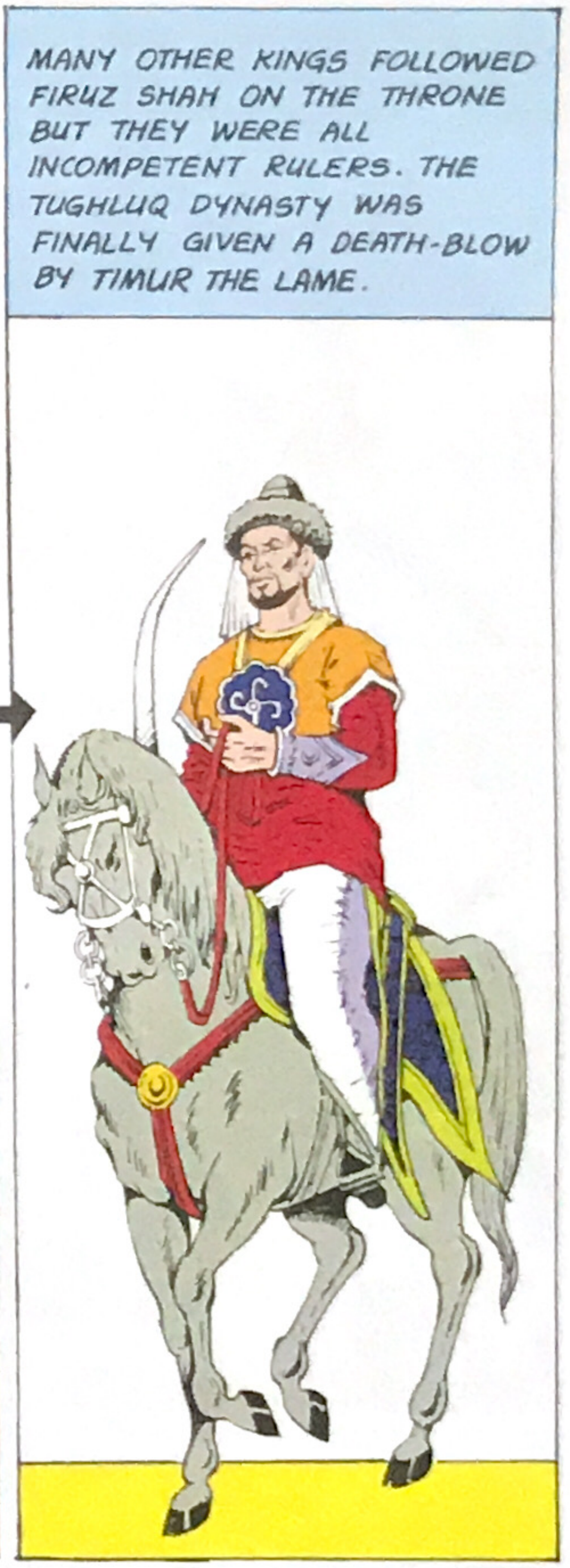

WHEN FIRUZ SHAH FIRST BROUGHT THE PILLAR TO DELHI FROM AMBALA IT AROUSED GREAT CURIOSITY.

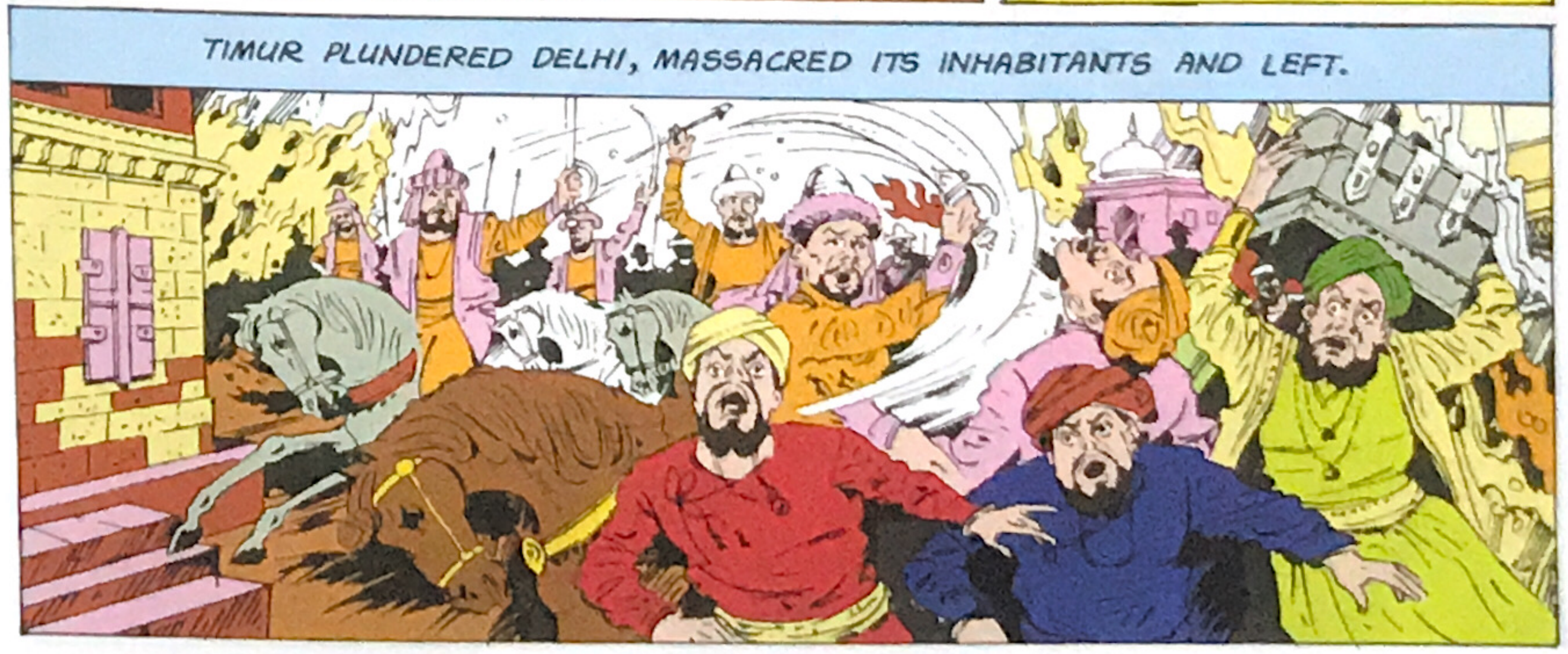

THE PILLAR HAS SOME WRITING ON IT.


NO ONE CAN READ IT.

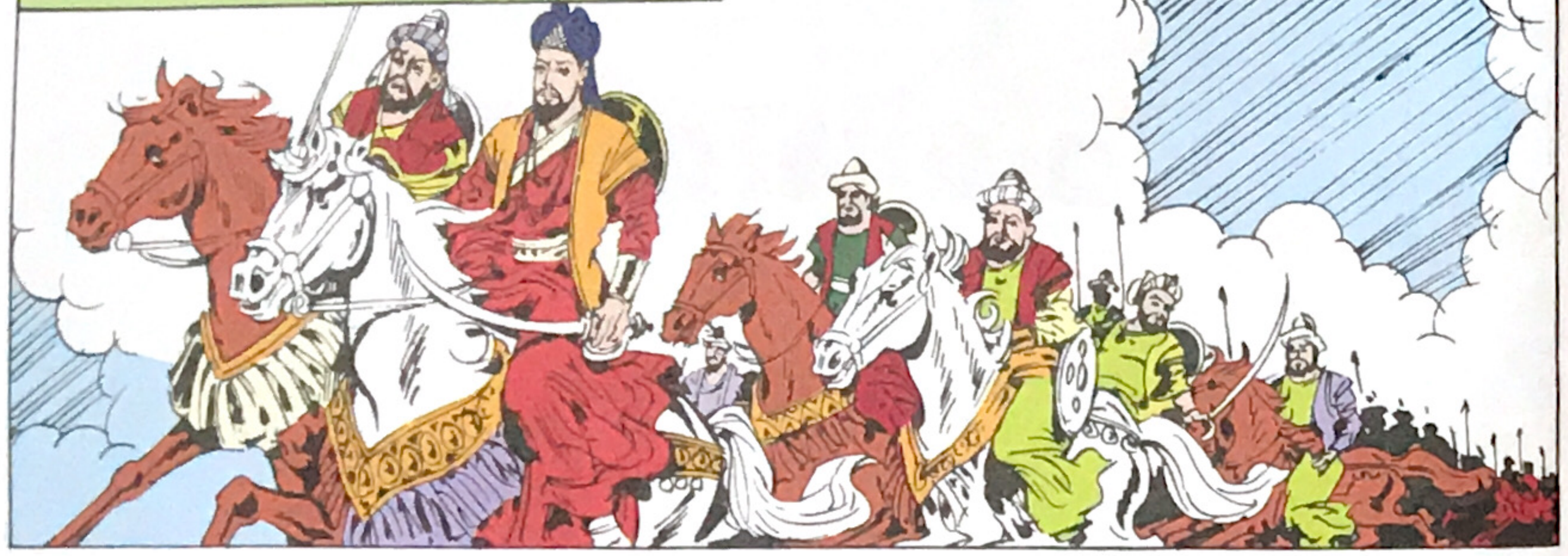

THE SULTAN HAS OFFERED A RICH REWARD TO ANYONE WHO CAN READ THE INSCRIPTION.
HOWEVER, IT WAS ONLY IN 1837 THAT THE SCRIPT WAS DECIPHERED. THE MAN WHO DID IT WAS AN ENGLISHMAN NAMED JAMES PRINCEP.


FIRUZ SHAH DIED IN 1388 AND WAS BURIED AT ONE CORNER OF HAUZ KHAS, NEAR THE QUTB MINAR.

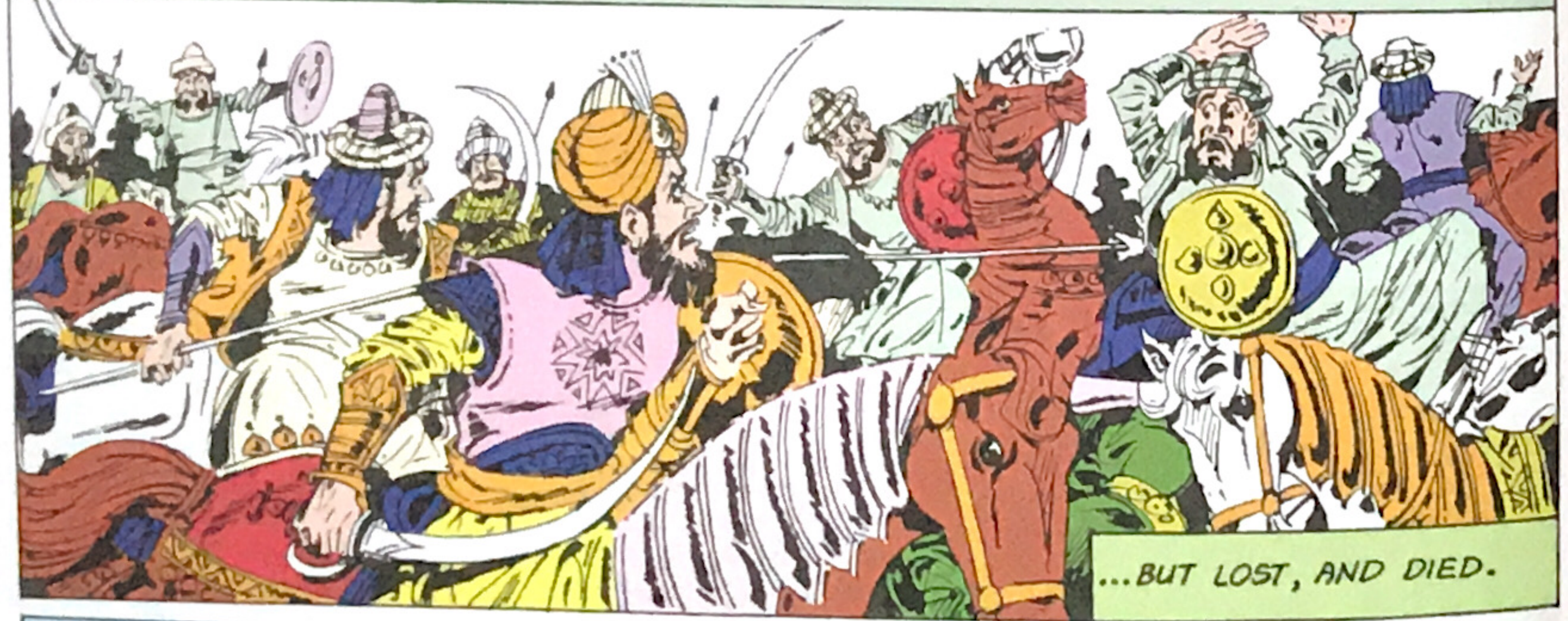

MANY OTHER KINGS FOLLOWED FIRUZ SHAH ON THE THRONE BUT THEY WERE ALL INCOMPETENT RULERS. THE TUGHLUQ DYNASTY WAS FINALLY GIVEN A DEATH-BLOW BY TIMUR THE LAME.


TIMUR PLUNDERED DELHI, MASSACRED ITS INHABITANTS AND LEFT.

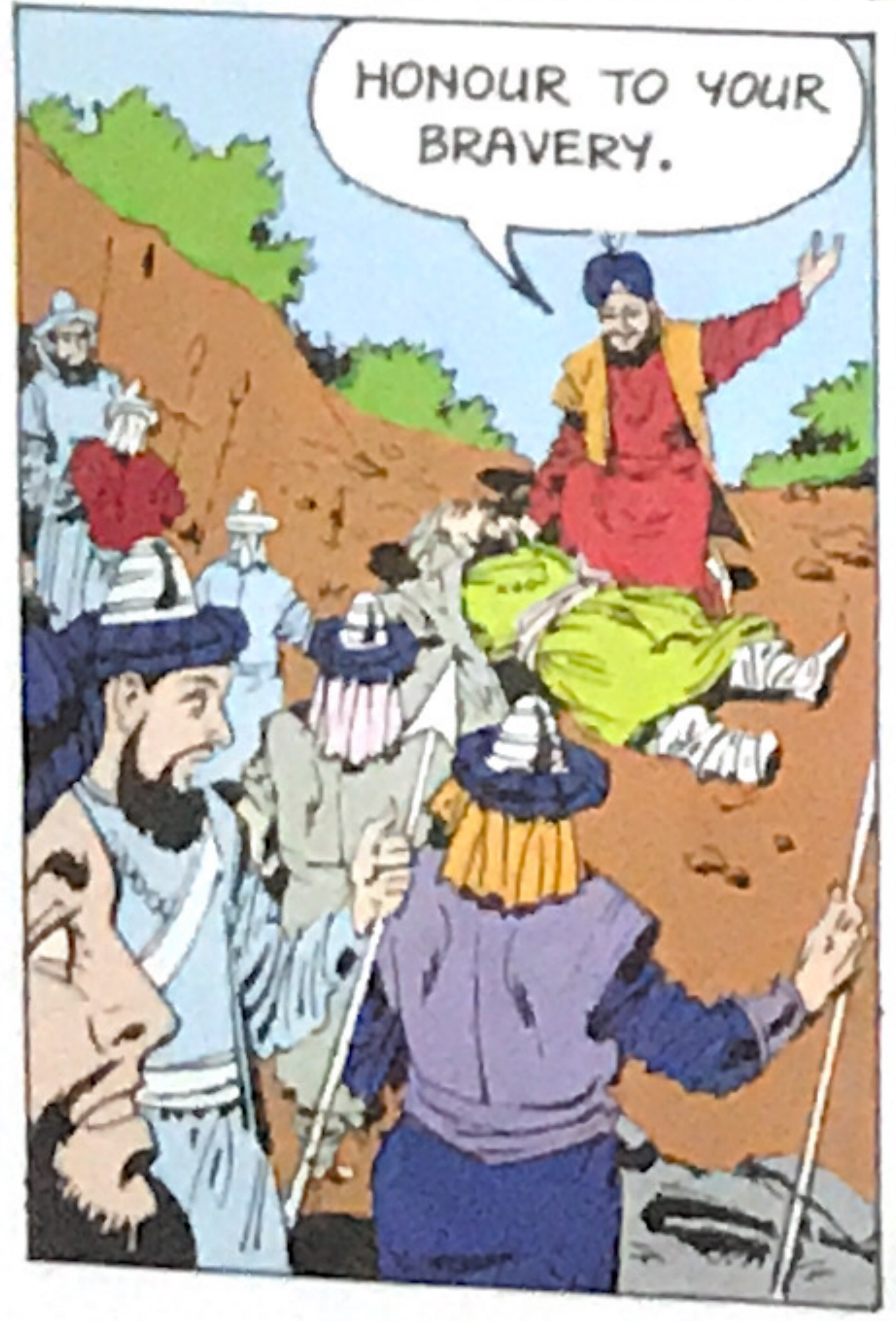
OVER A HUNDRED YEARS LATER ONE OF HIS DESCENDANTS, BABUR, DECIDED TO SEEK HIS FORTUNE IN INDIA.



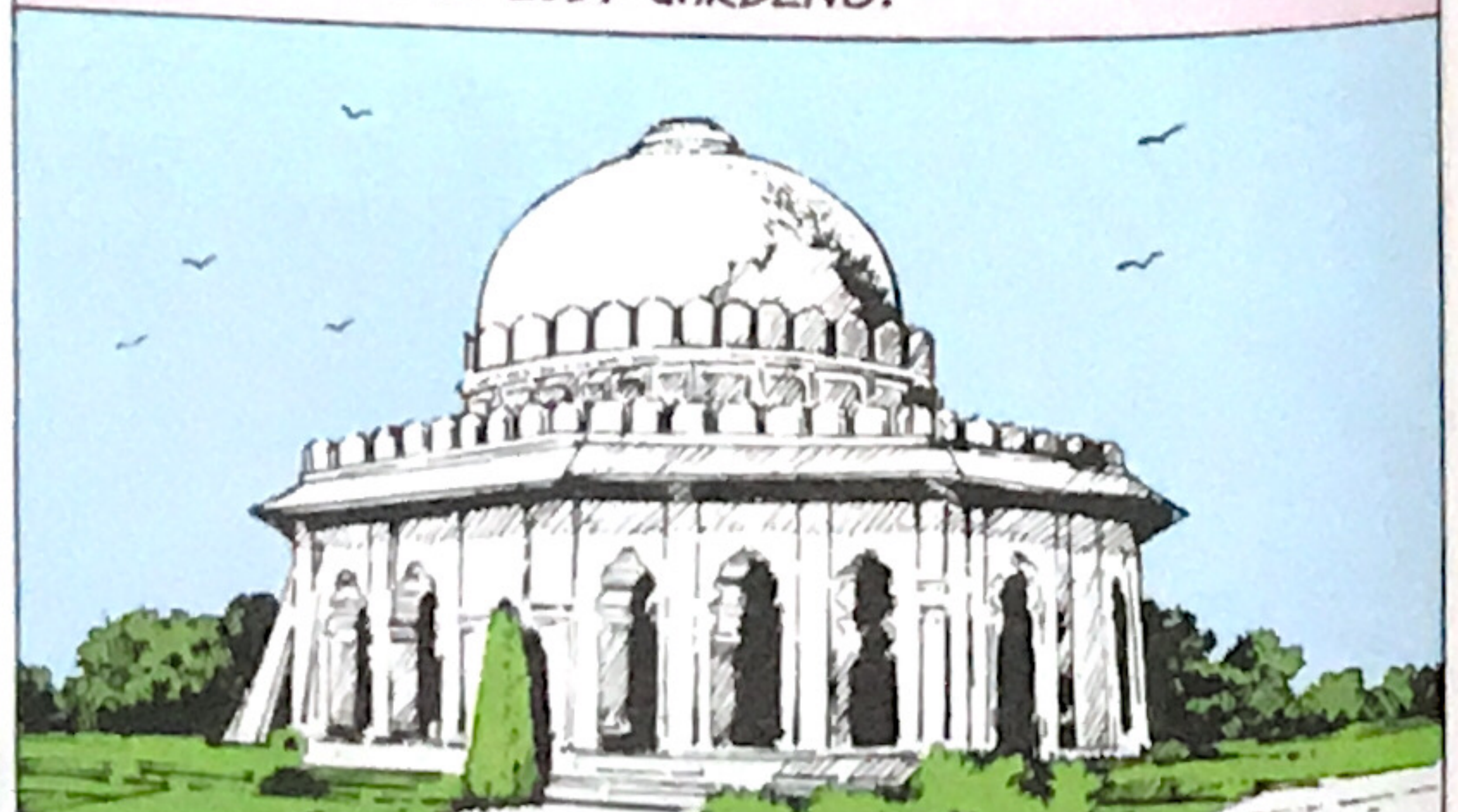
DELHI, IN THE MEANTIME, HAD COME UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE LODIS. THE THIRD AND LAST KING OF THIS DYNASTY, IBRAHIM LODI, FOUGHT BABUR ON THE BATTLEFIELD OF PANIPAT. HE FOUGHT COURAGEOUSLY...



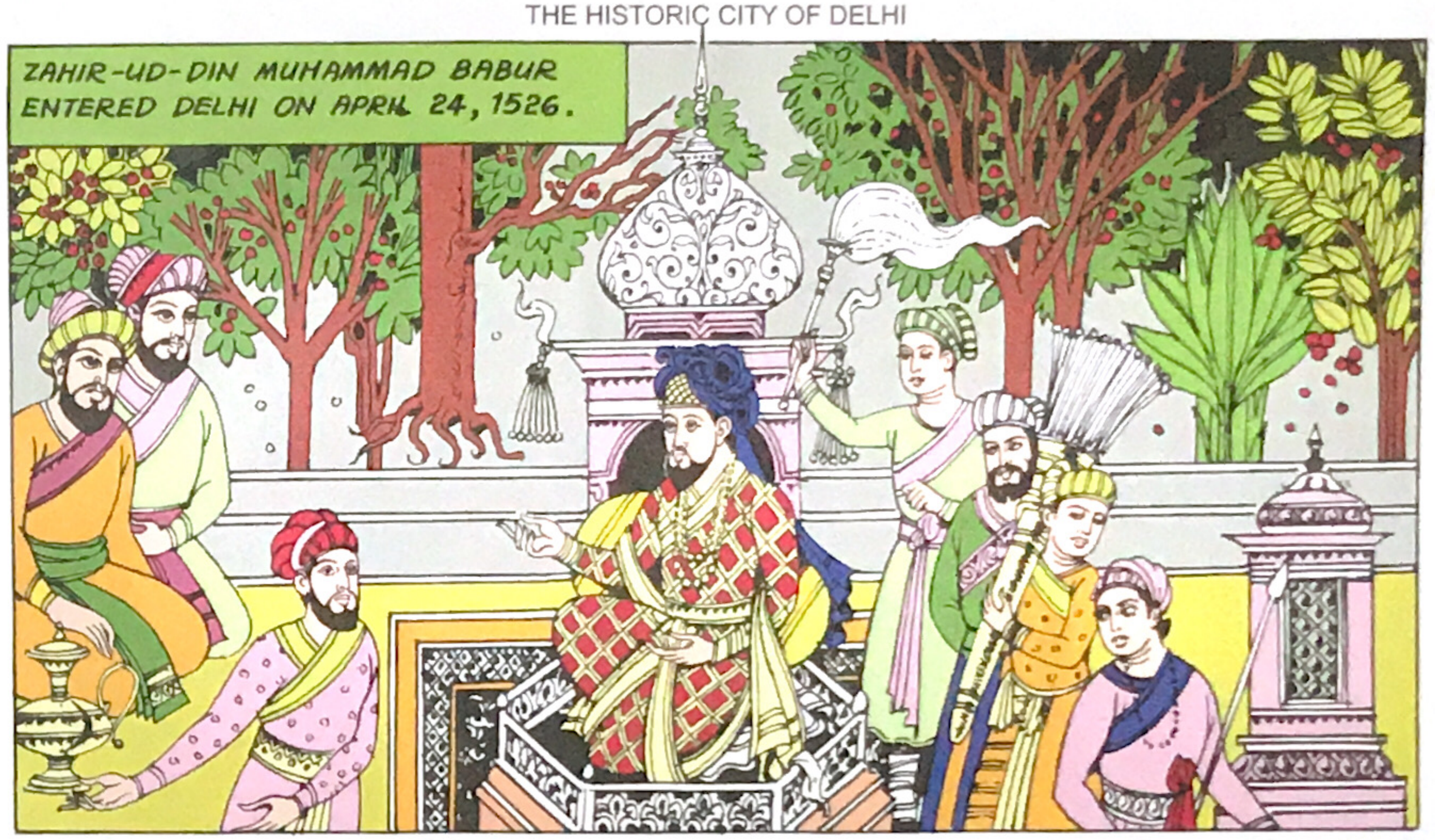
...BUT LOST, AND DIED.


HONOUR TO YOUR BRAVERY.

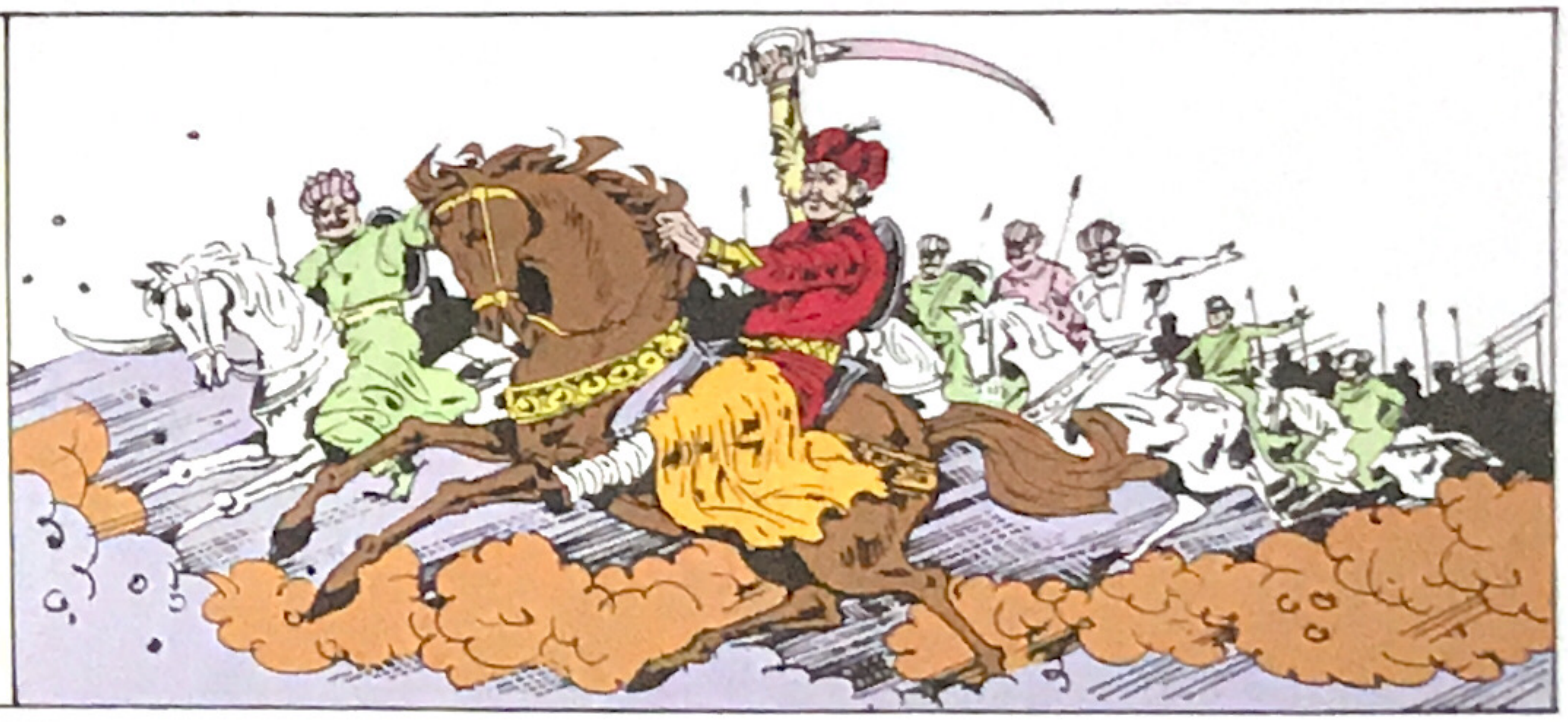
THE LODIS HAD RULED DELHI FOR 75 YEARS. THE MONUMENTS THEY HAVE LEFT BEHIND ARE SIMPLE AND AUSTERE AND EXEMPLIFIED BY THE TOMB OF THE SECOND KING, SIKANDAR LODI, SITUATED IN THE LODI GARDENS.

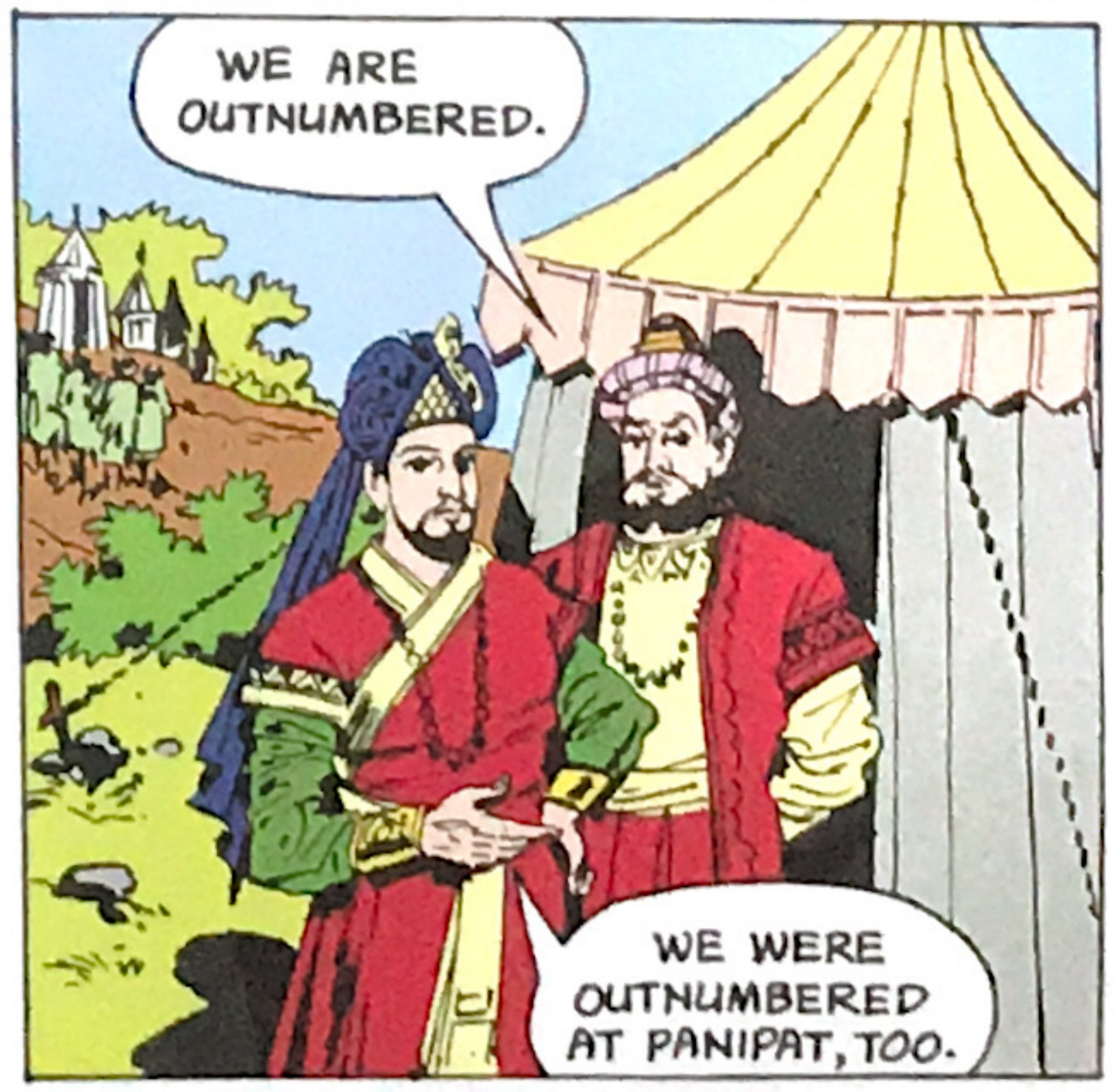


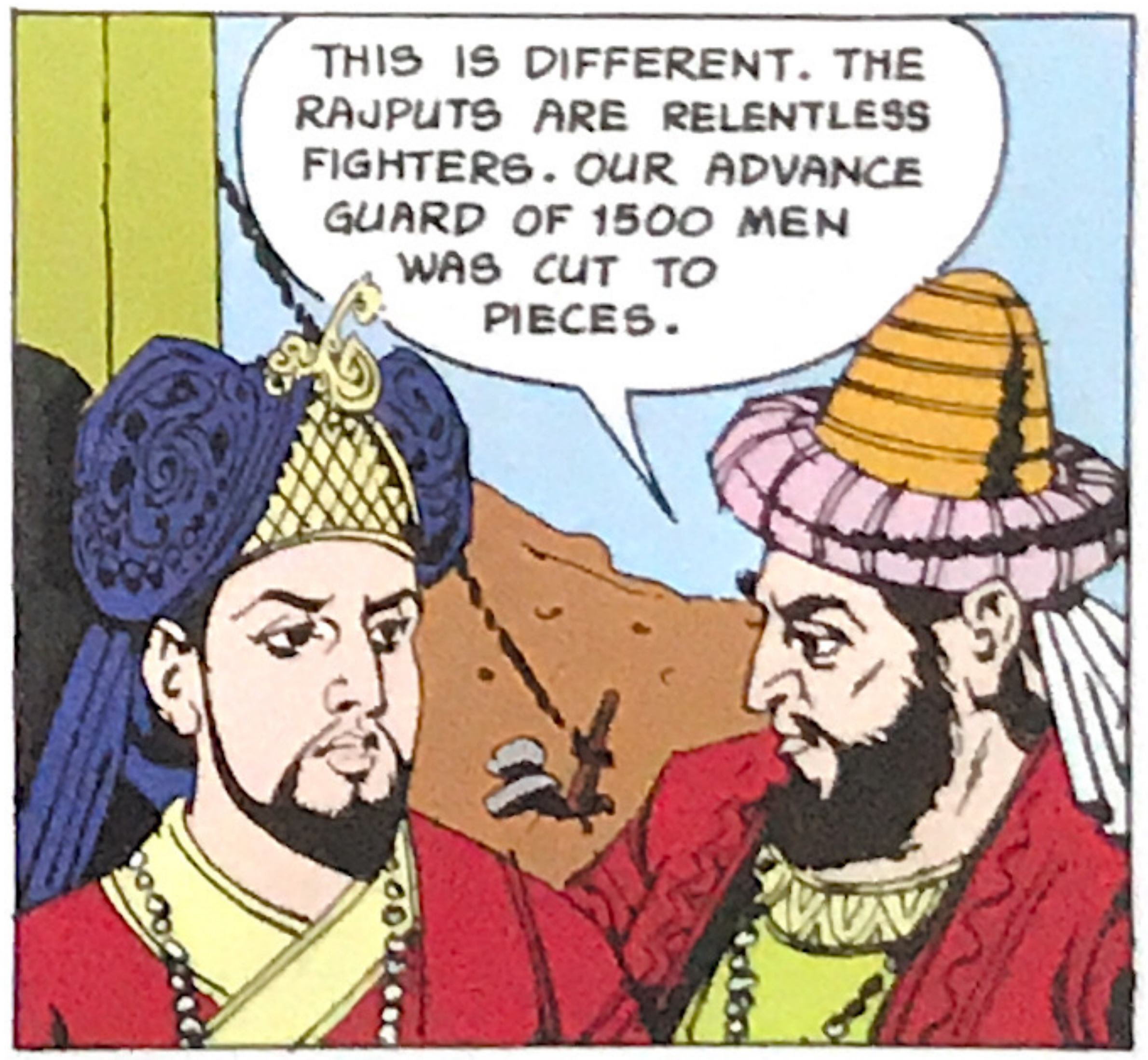
ZAHIR-UD-DIN MUHAMMAD BABUR ENTERED DELHI ON APRIL 24, 1526.

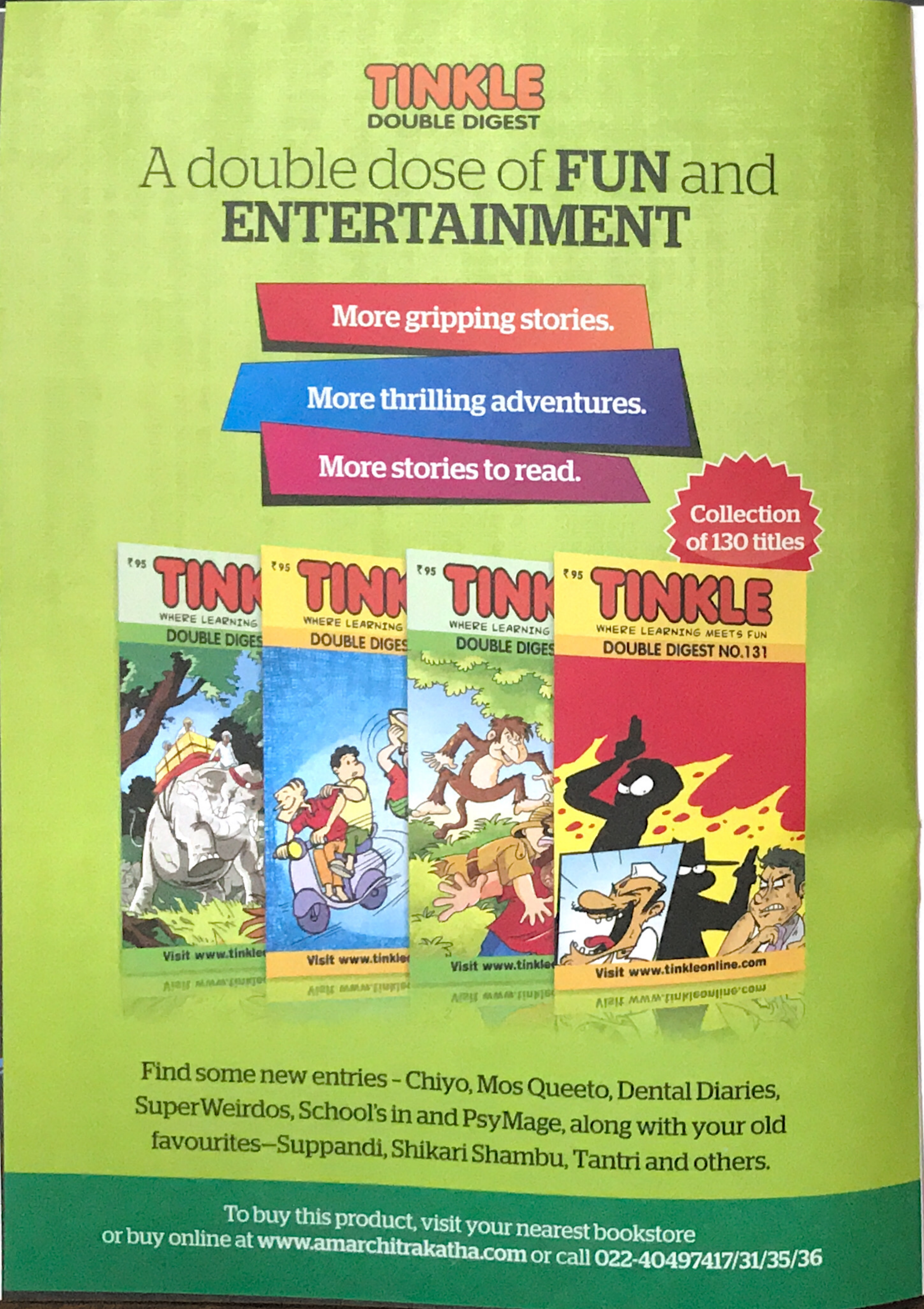


ONE YEAR LATER THE RAJPUTS LED BY RANA SANGA WERE AT HIS THROAT. THE RAJPUTS WERE DETERMINED TO DRIVE BABUR OUT OF DELHI... AND HINDUSTAN.




WE ARE OUTNUMBERED.
WE WERE OUTNUMBERED AT PANIPAT, TOO.


THIS IS DIFFERENT. THE RAJPUTS ARE RELENTLESS FIGHTERS. OUR ADVANCE GUARD OF 1500 MEN WAS CUT TO PIECES.



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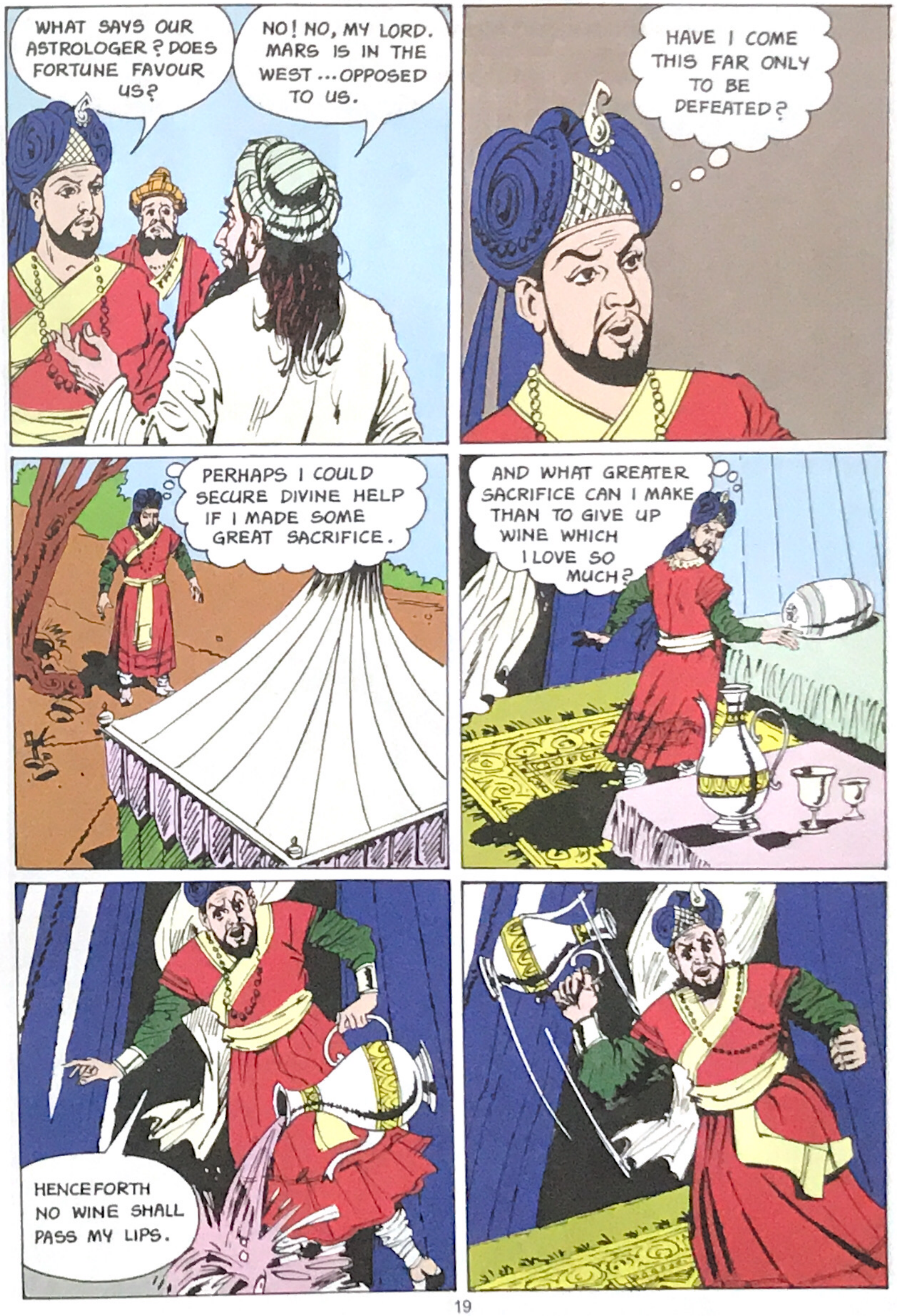
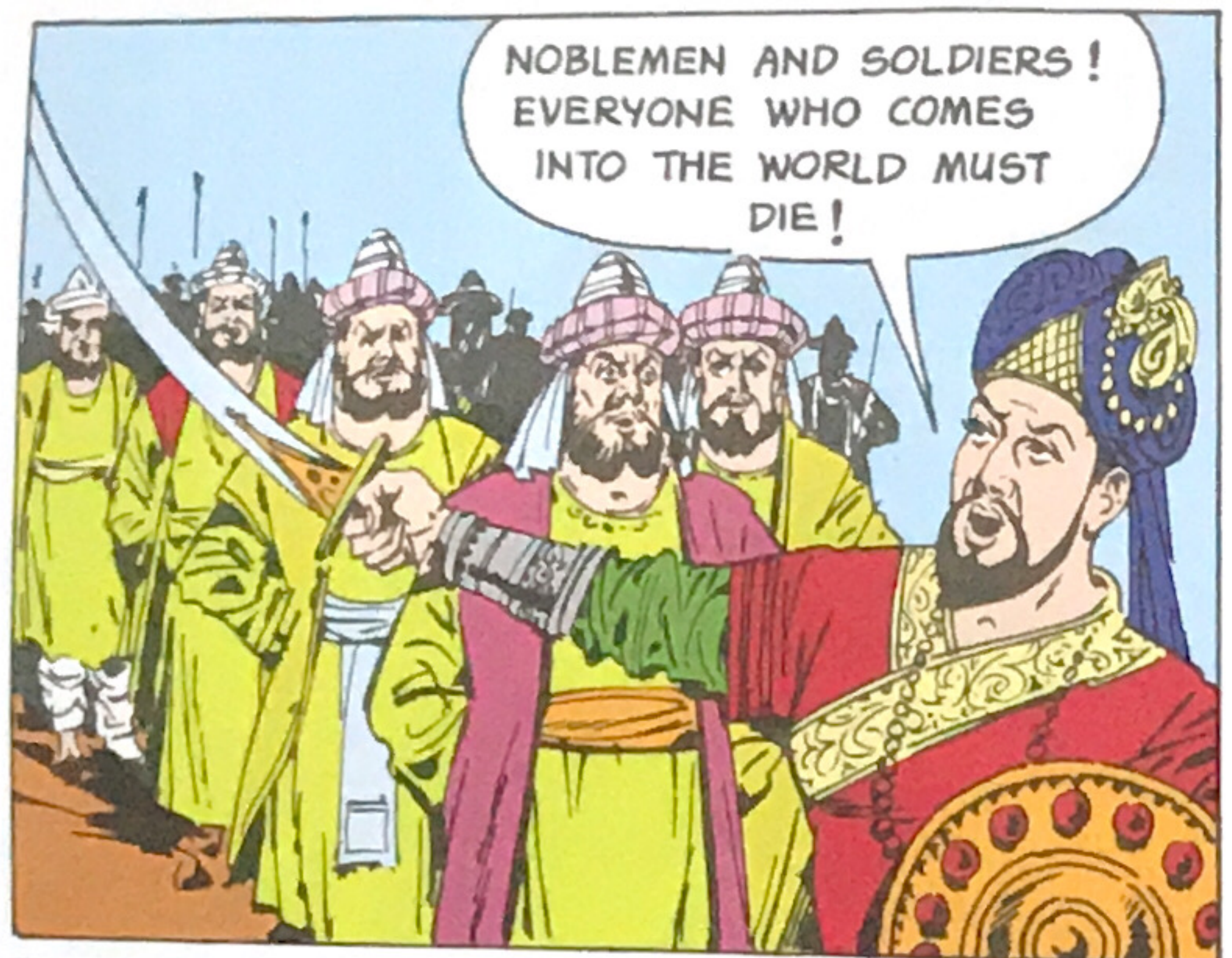
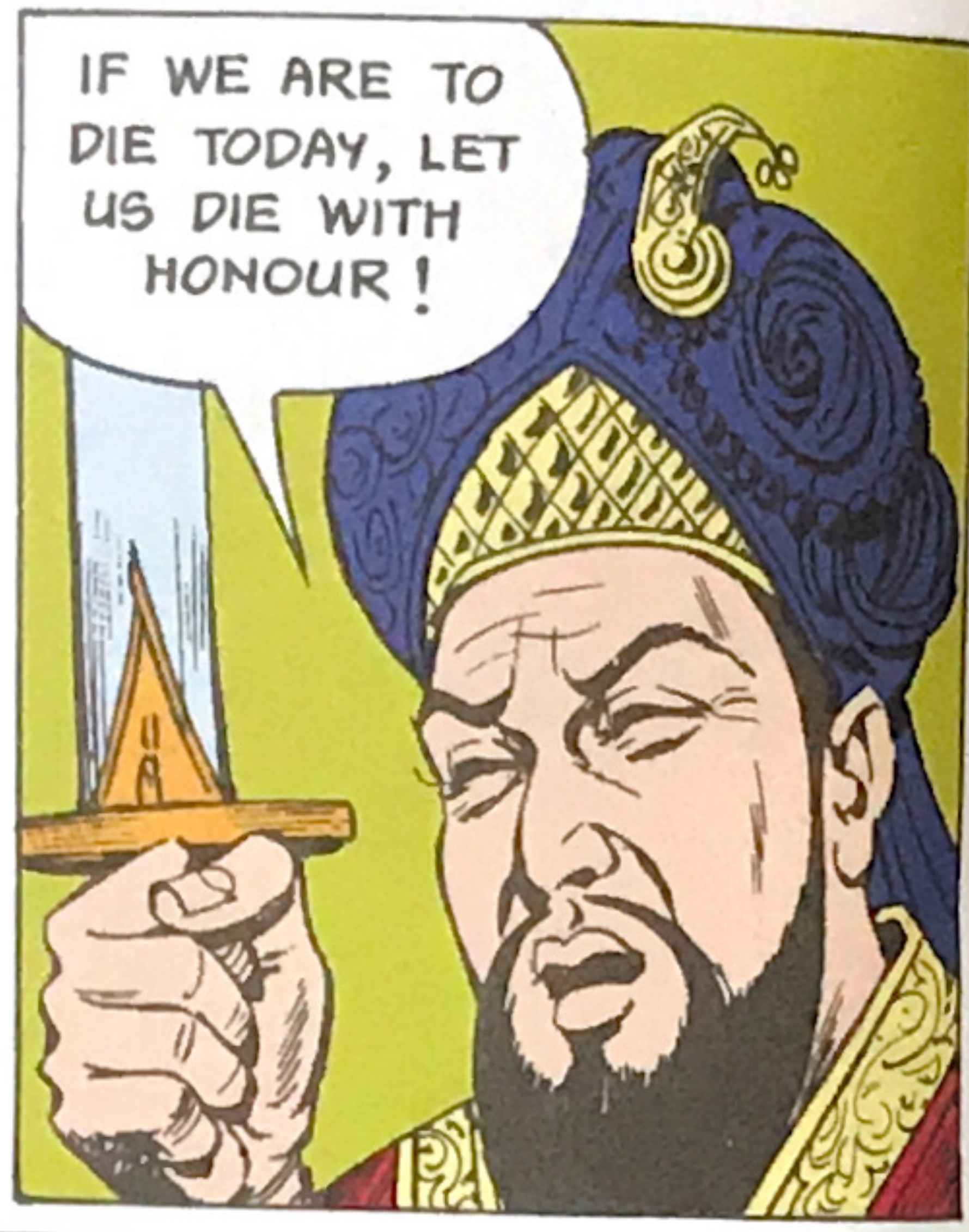
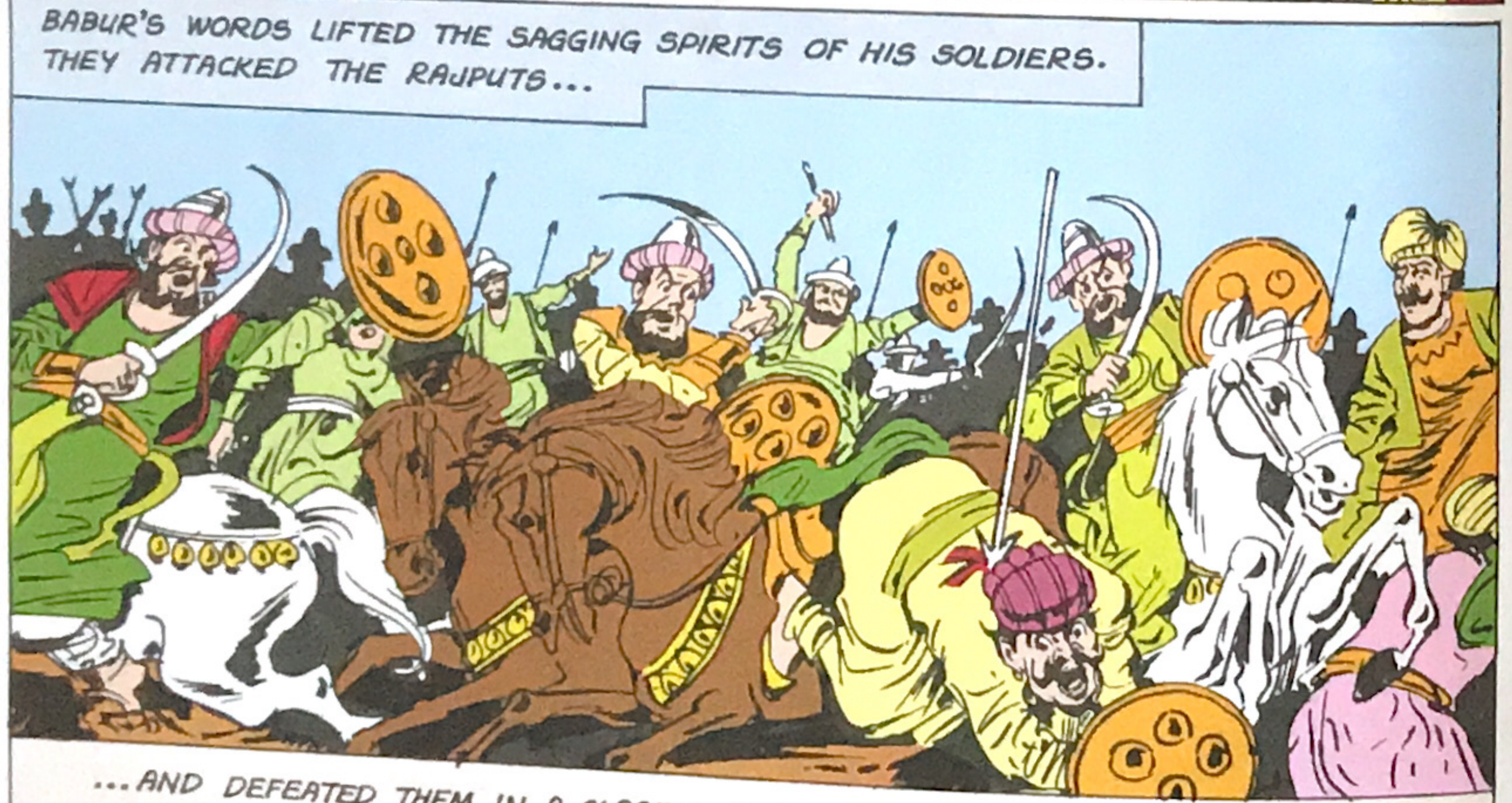


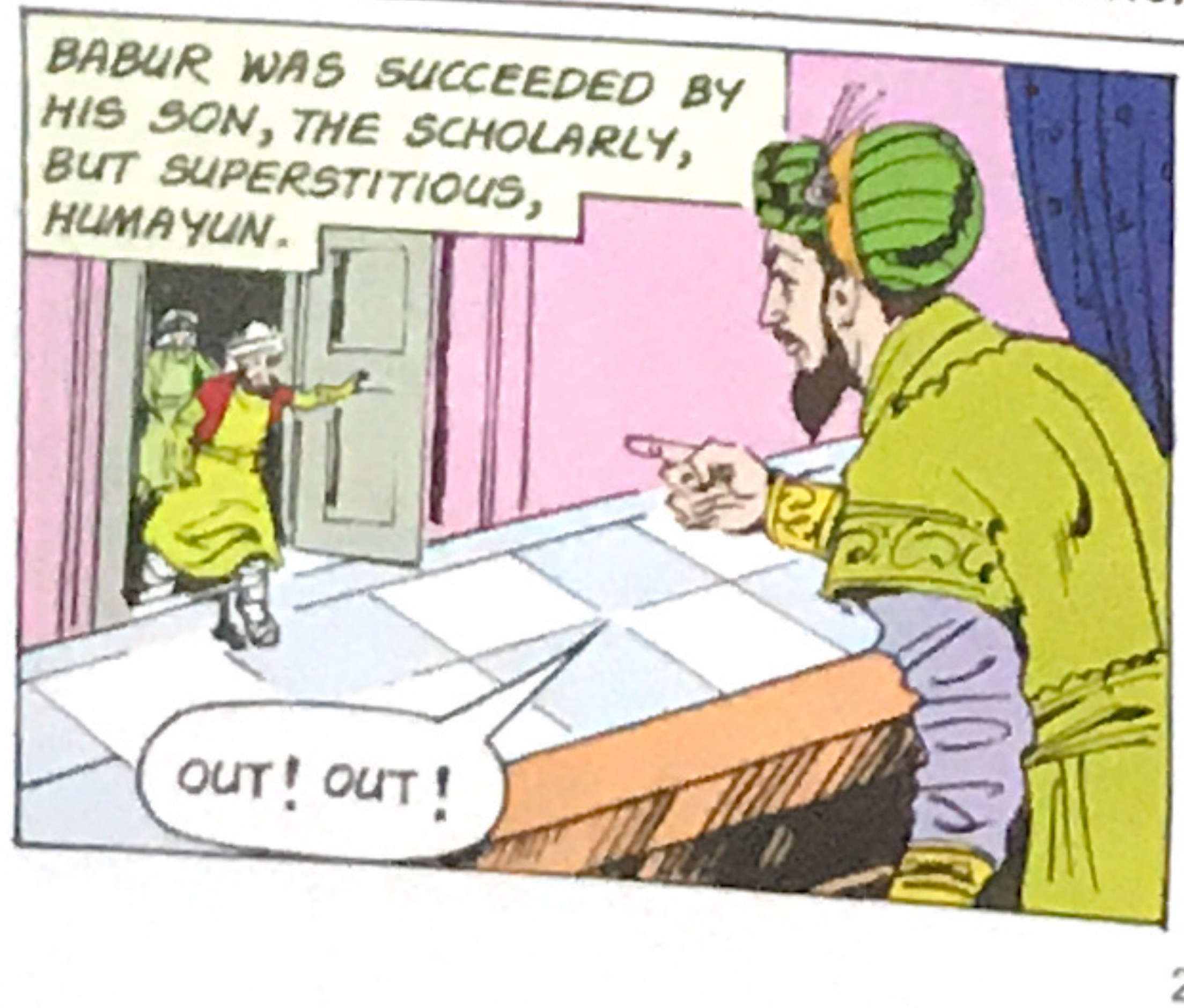
WHAT SAYS OUR ASTROLOGER ? DOES FORTUNE FAVOUR US?
NO! NO, MY LORD. MARS IS IN THE WEST ... OPPOSED TO US.
HAVE I COME THIS FAR ONLY TO BE DEFEATED?
PERHAPS I COULD SECURE DIVINE HELP IF I MADE SOME GREAT SACRIFICE.
AND WHAT GREATER SACRIFICE CAN I MAKE THAN TO GIVE UP WINE WHICH I LOVE SO MUCH?
HENCEFORTH NO WINE SHALL PASS MY LIPS.

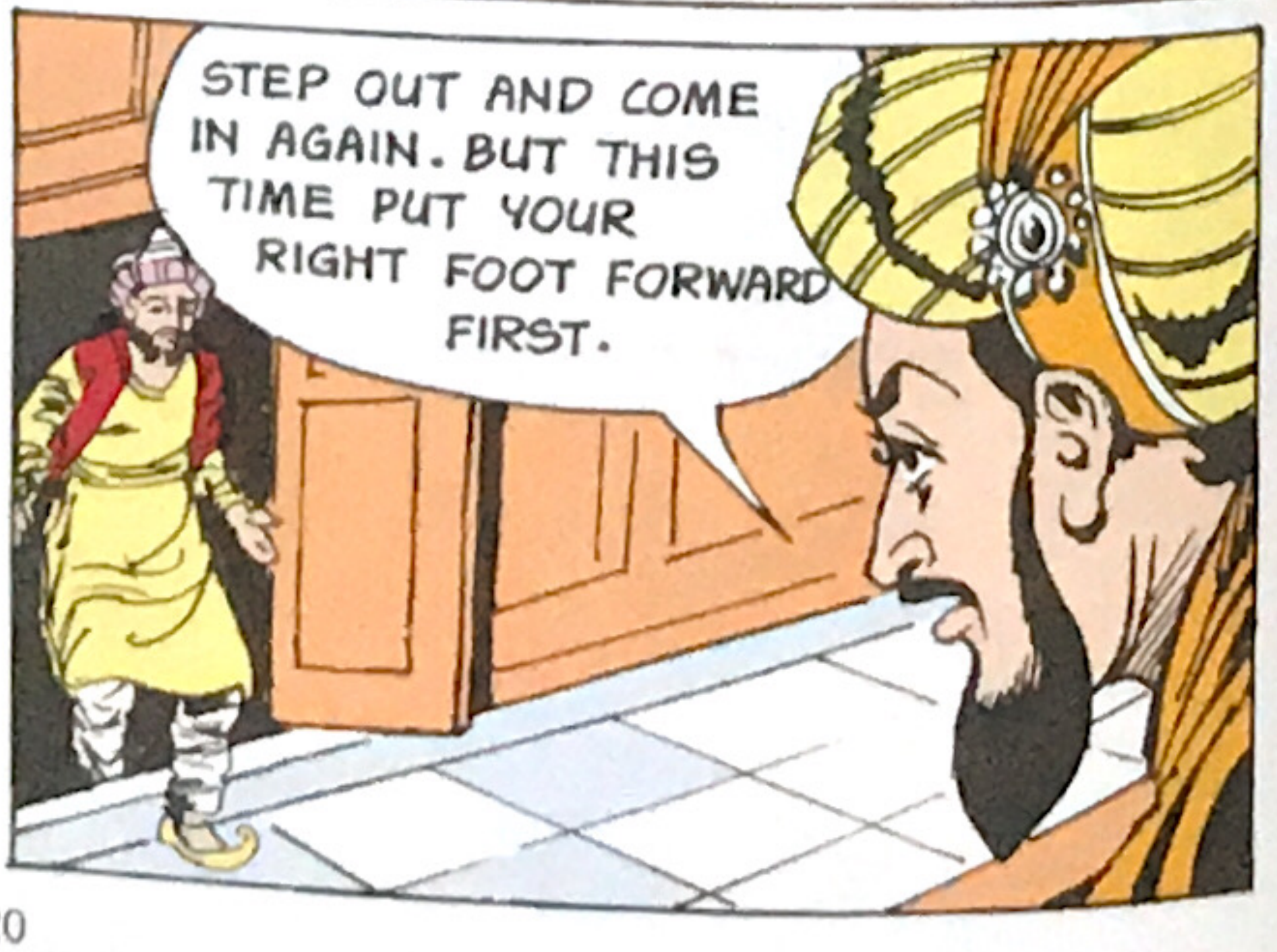

NOBLEMEN AND SOLDIERS! EVERYONE WHO COMES INTO THE WORLD MUST DIE!

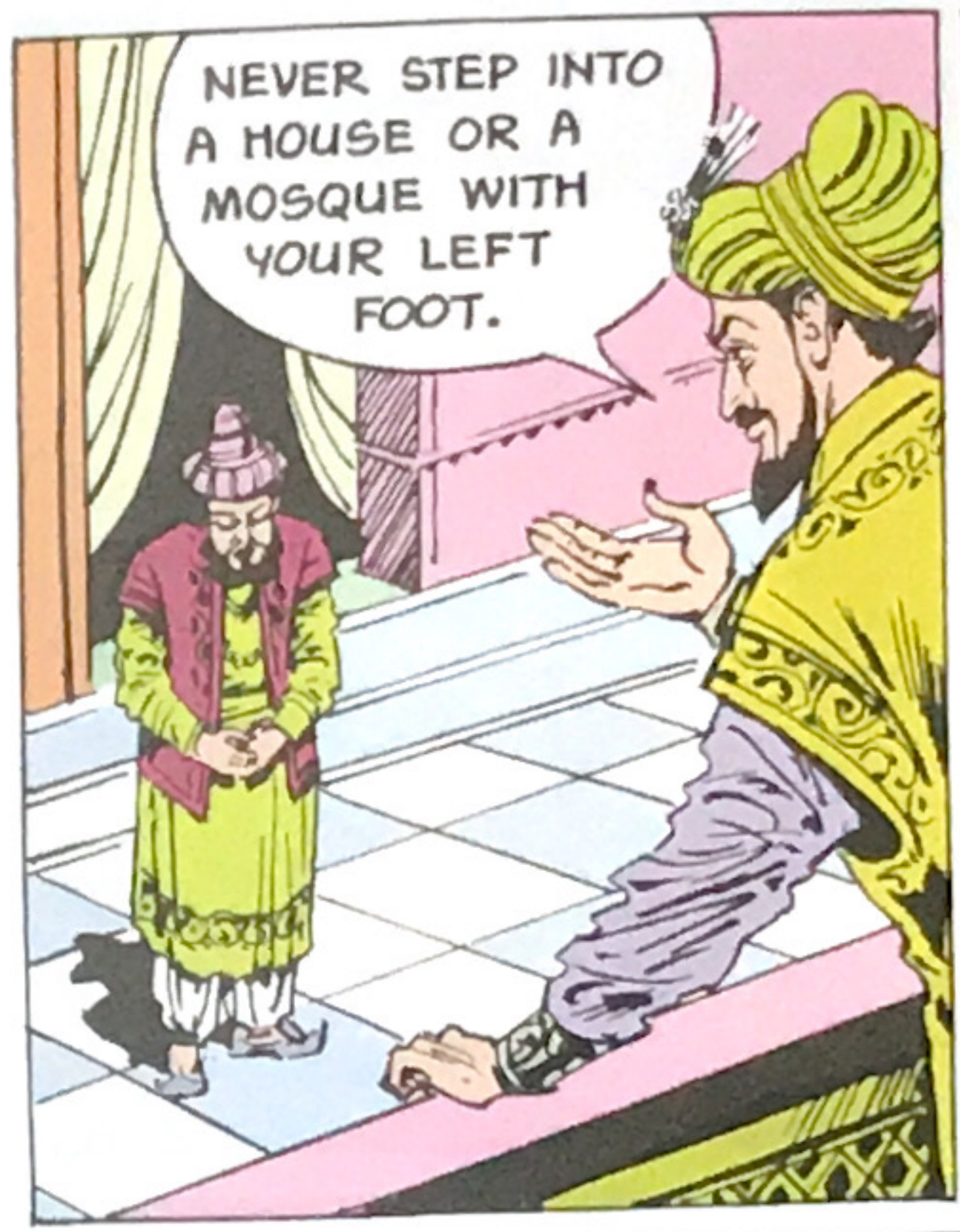

IF WE ARE TO DIE TODAY, LET US DIE WITH HONOUR!

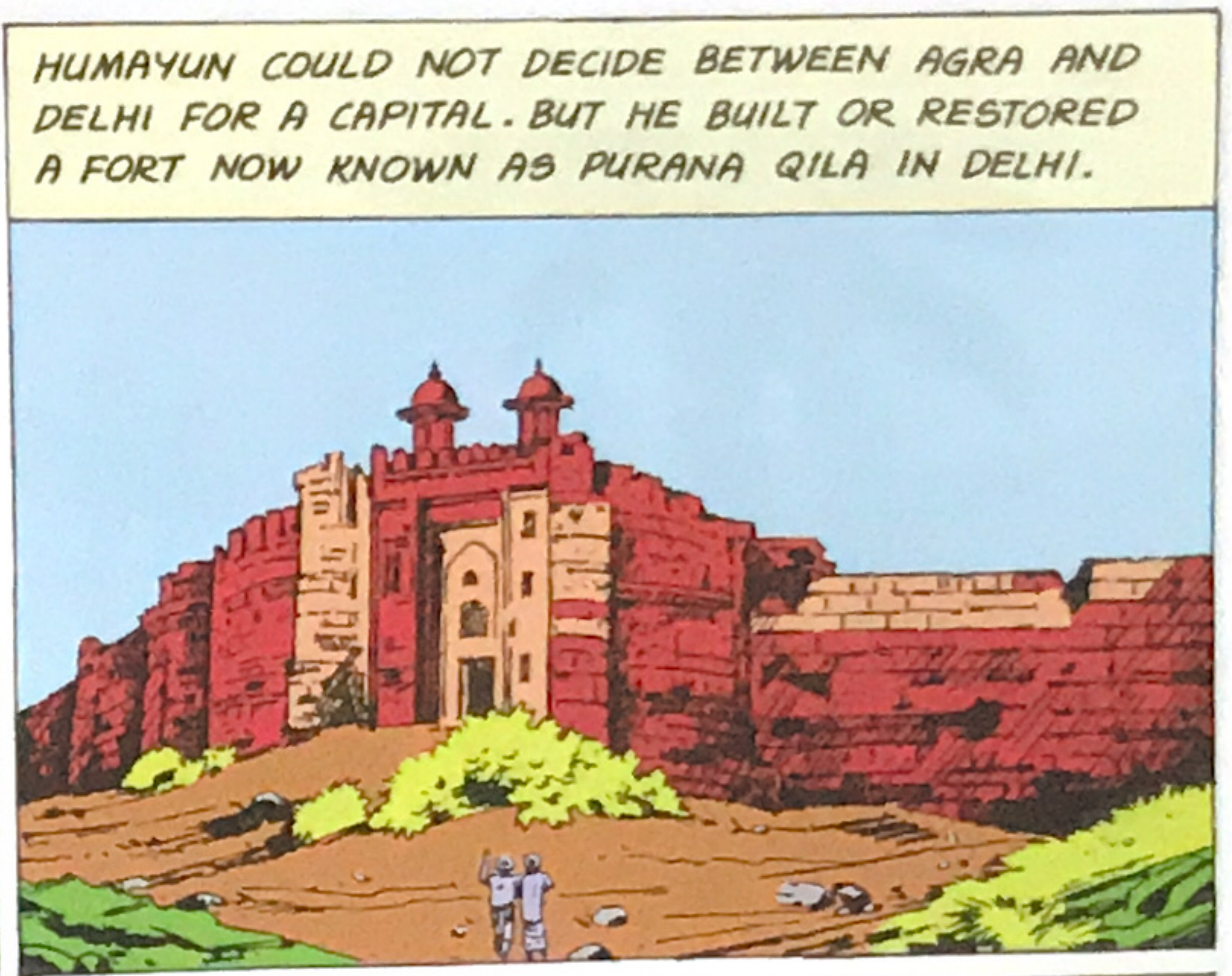

BABUR'S WORDS LIFTED THE SAGGING SPIRITS OF HIS SOLDIERS. THEY ATTACKED THE RAJPUTS...

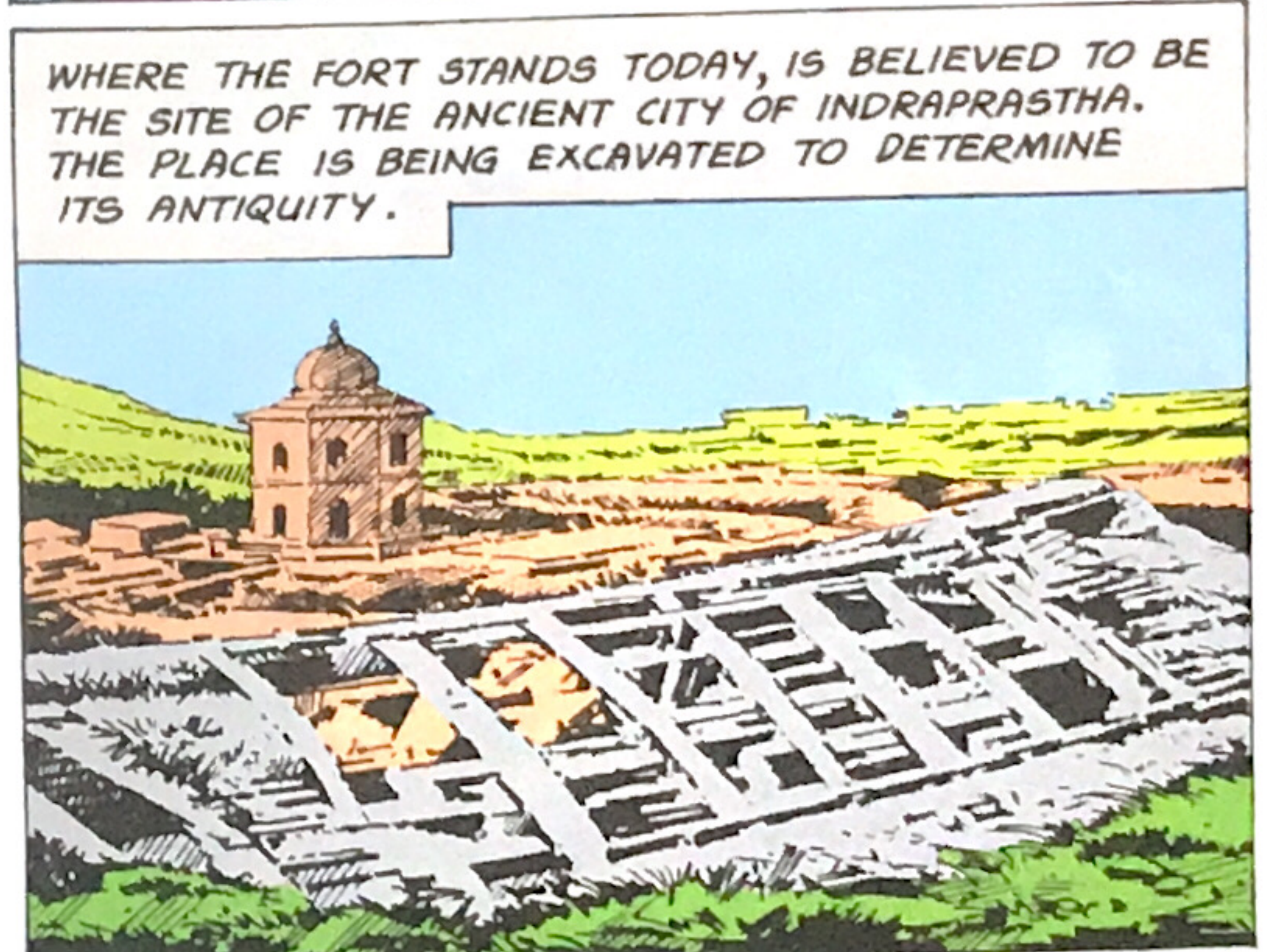
...AND DEFEATED THEM IN A CLOSELY CONTESTED BATTLE. THE VICTORY ESTABLISHED BABUR FIRMLY IN HINDUSTAN. FROM HIM SPRANG THE LONG LINE OF MUGHAL EMPERORS UNDER WHOM DELHI REACHED THE PEAK OF HER GLORY.

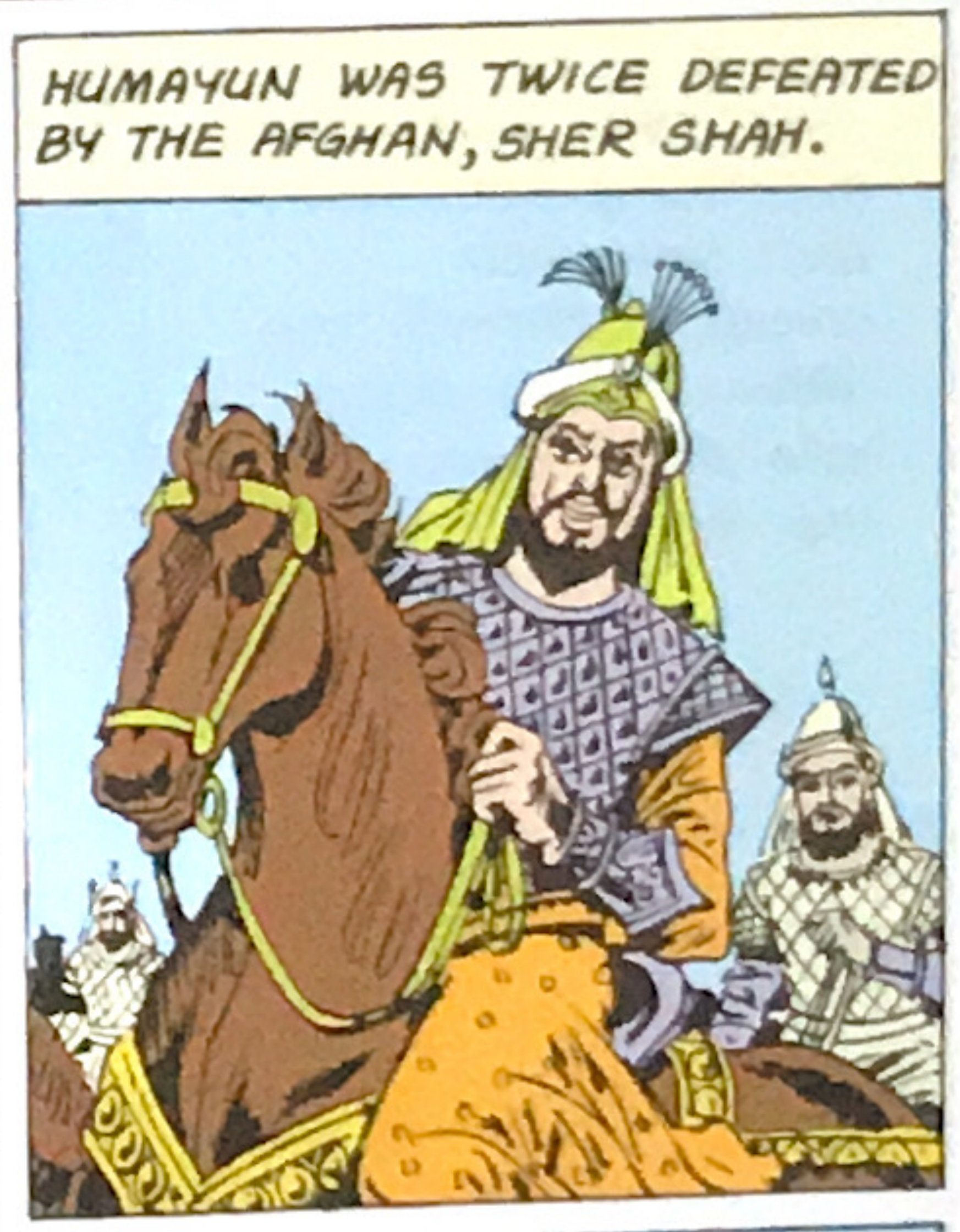

BABUR WAS SUCCEEDED BY HIS SON, THE SCHOLARLY, BUT SUPERSTITIOUS, HUMAYUN.

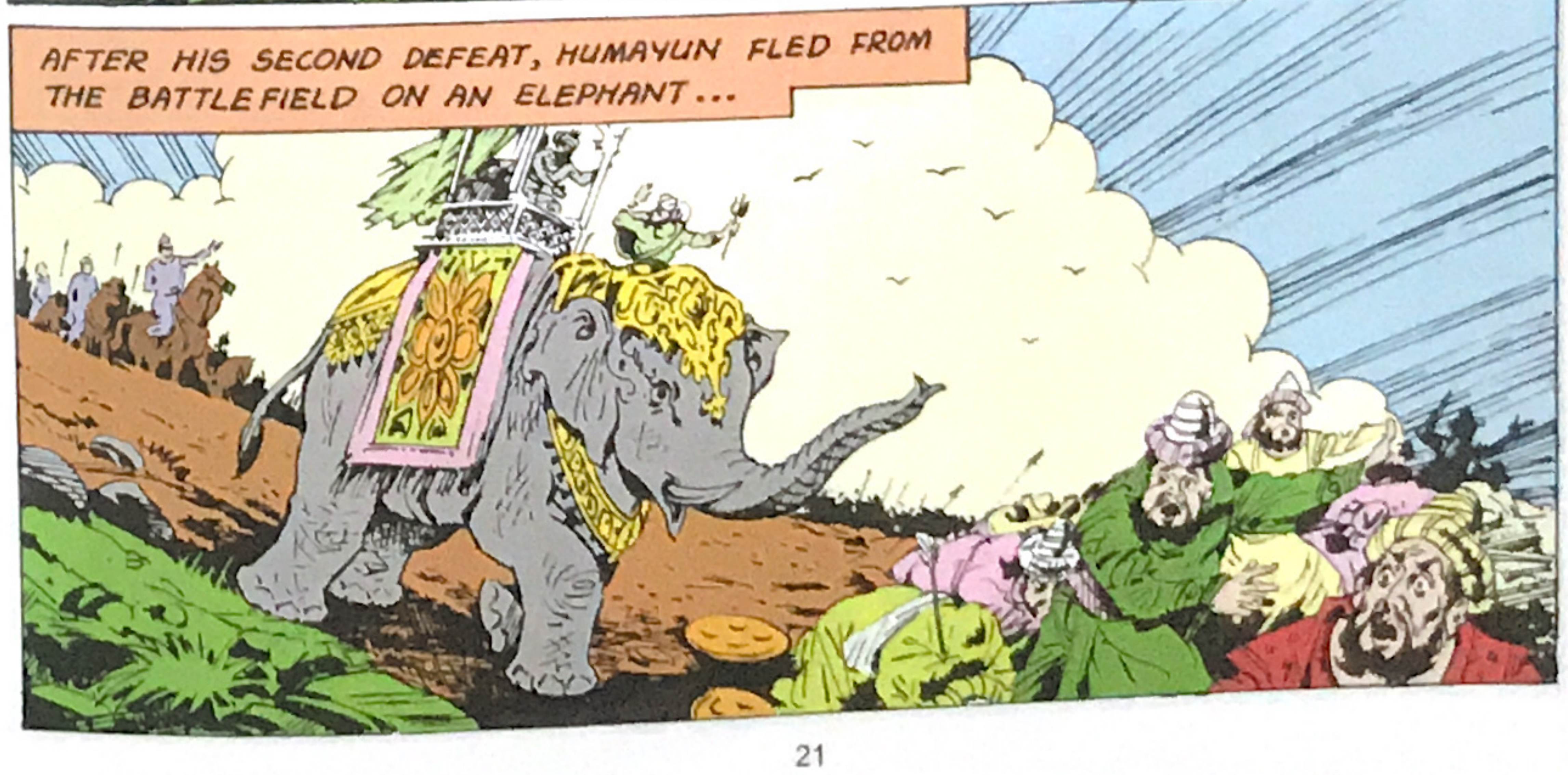

STEP OUT AND COME IN AGAIN. BUT THIS TIME PUT YOUR RIGHT FOOT FORWARD FIRST.


NEVER STEP INTO A HOUSE OR A MOSQUE WITH YOUR LEFT FOOT.

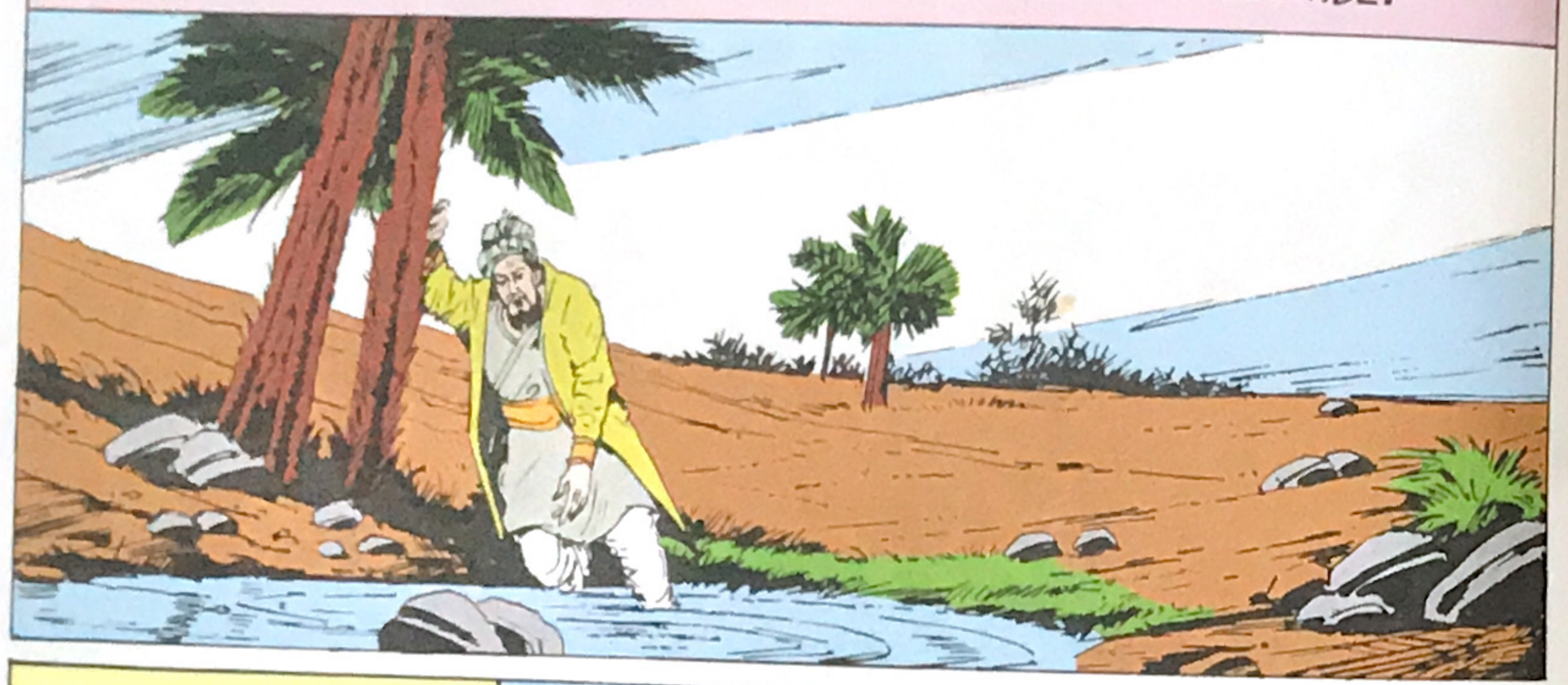

HUMAYUN COULD NOT DECIDE BETWEEN AGRA AND DELHI FOR A CAPITAL. BUT HE BUILT OR RESTORED A FORT NOW KNOWN AS PURANA QILA IN DELHI.


WHERE THE FORT STANDS TODAY, IS BELIEVED TO BE THE SITE OF THE ANCIENT CITY OF INDRAPRASTHA. THE PLACE IS BEING EXCAVATED TO DETERMINE ITS ANTIQUITY.

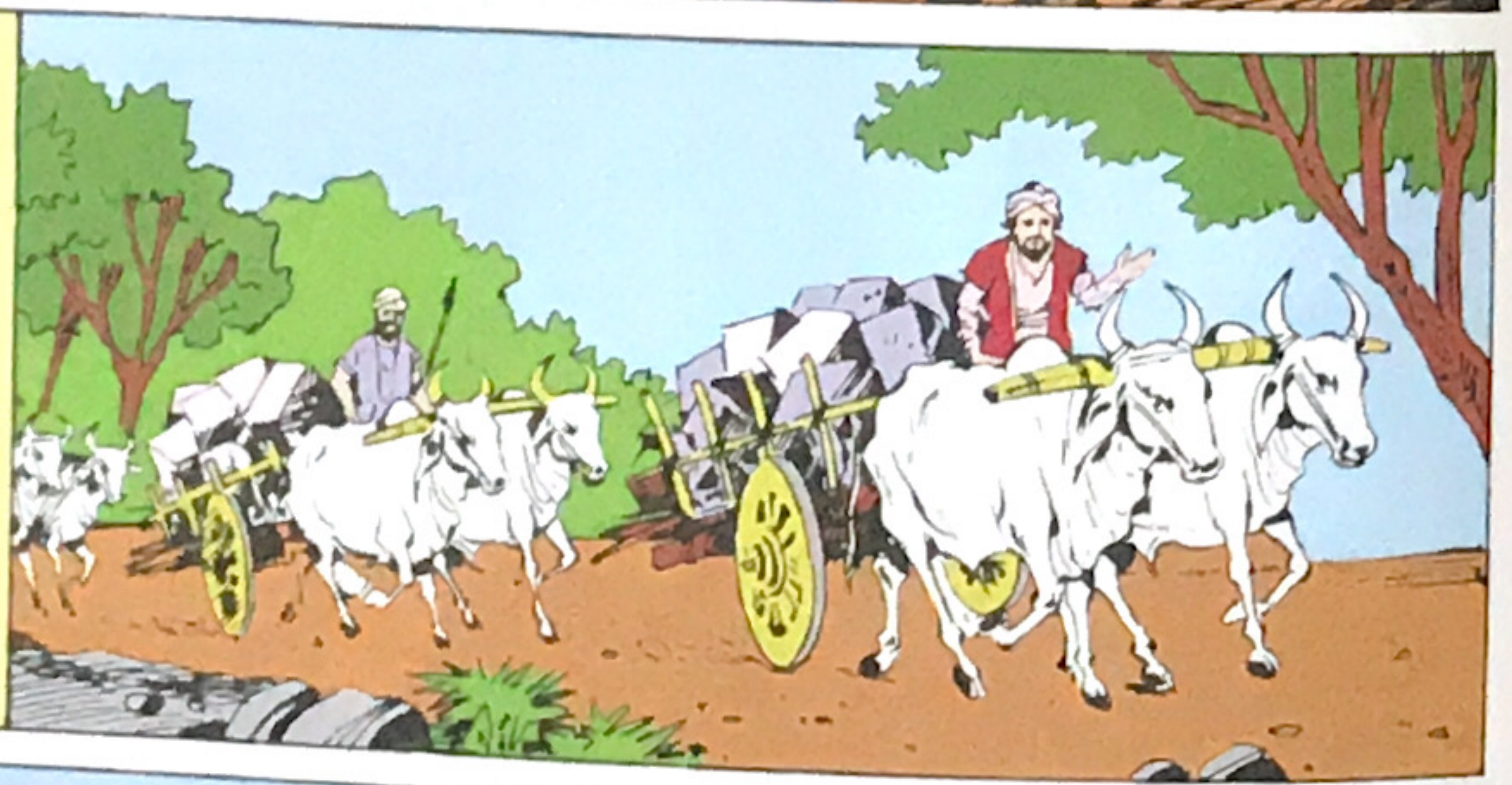

HUMAYUN WAS TWICE DEFEATED BY THE AFGHAN, SHER SHAH.


AFTER HIS SECOND DEFEAT, HUMAYUN FLED FROM THE BATTLE FIELD ON AN ELEPHANT...

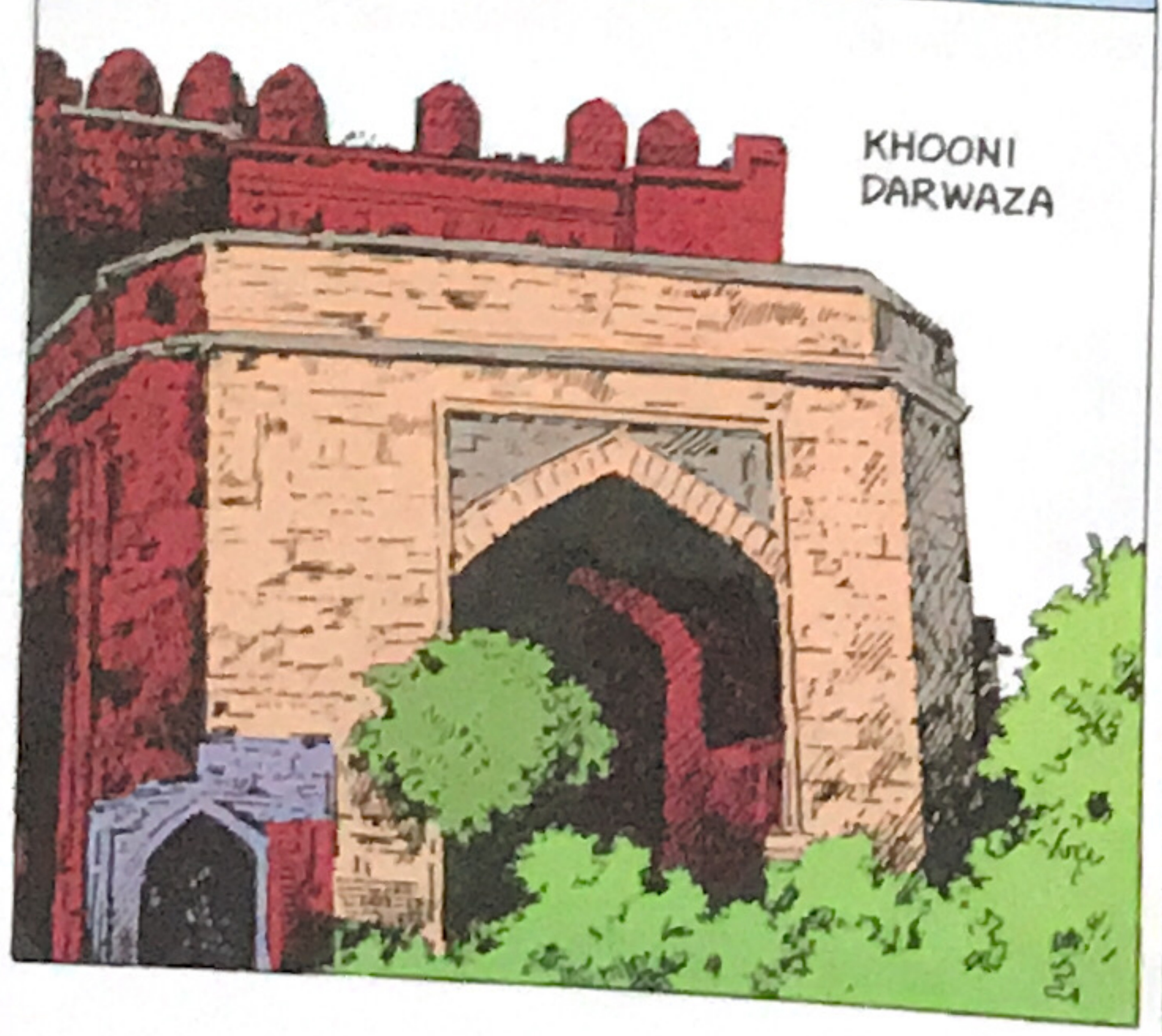
...AND THEREAFTER BECAME A HOMELESS WANDERER FOR OVER A DECADE.



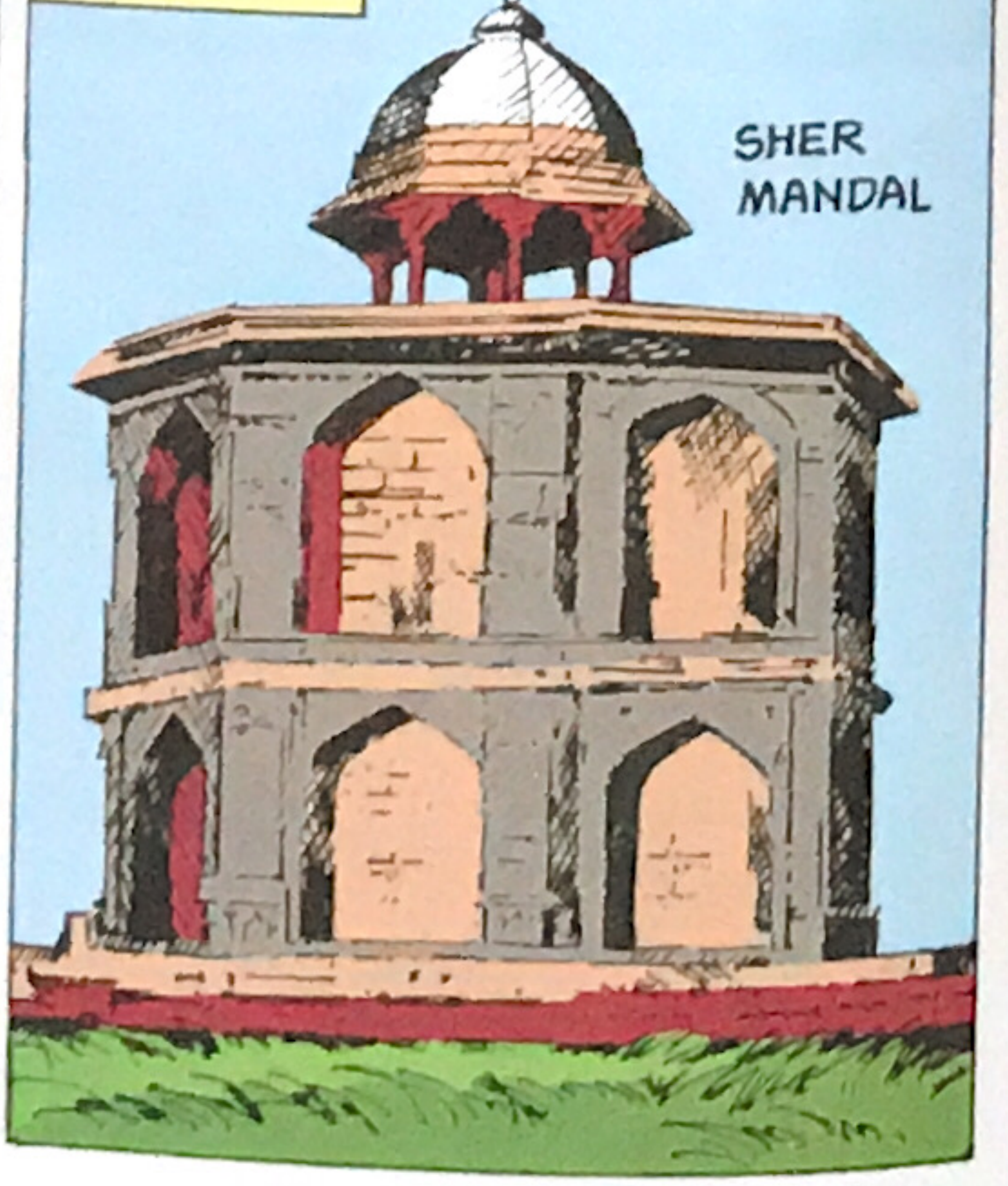
SHER SHAH WAS A GOOD RULER. HE BUILT ROADS AND IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS. THE GRAND TRUNK ROAD WAS BUILT DURING HIS REIGN.



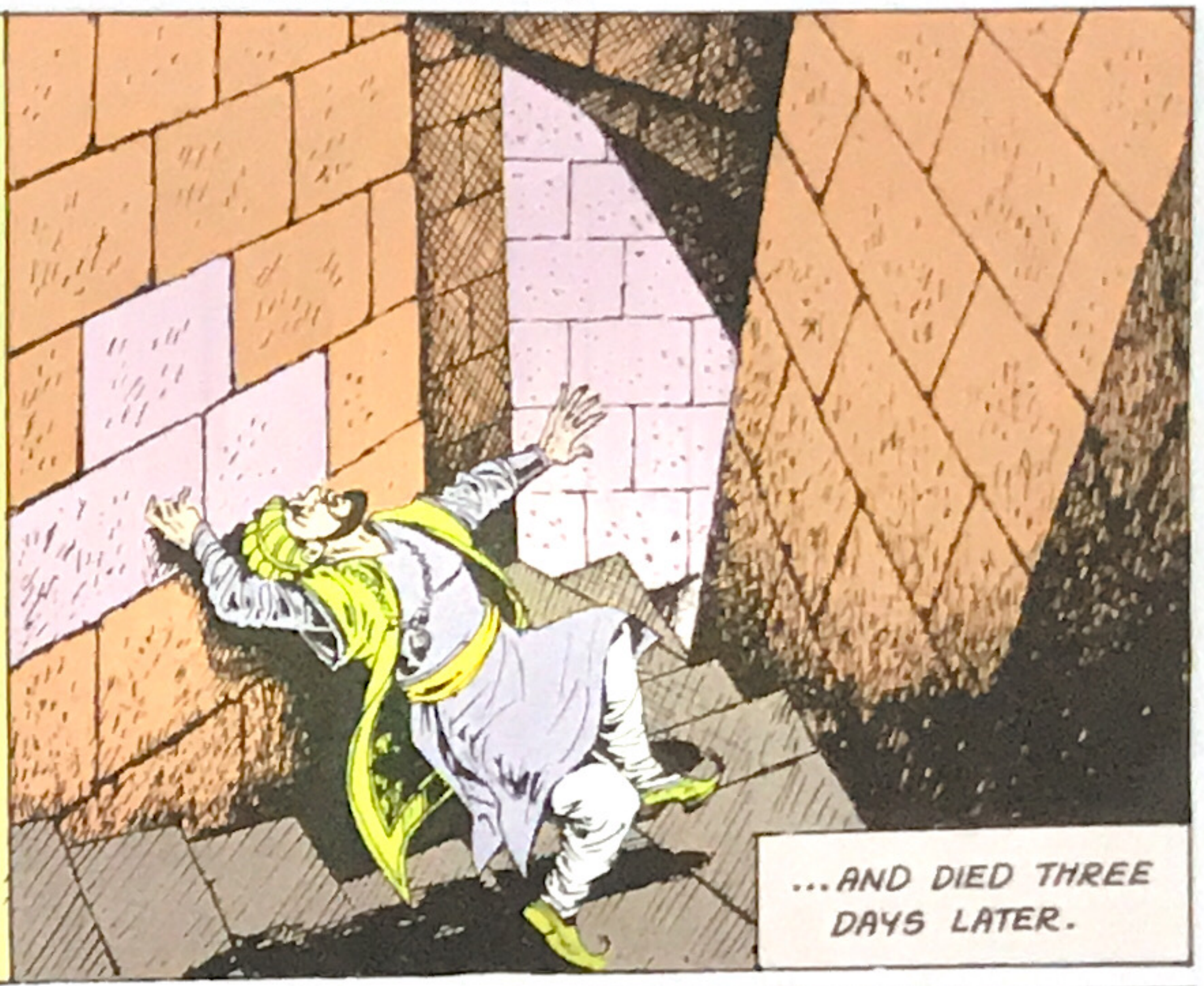
HE BUILT A NEW CITY IN DELHI, USING MATERIAL FROM THE RUINS OF FIRUZABAD. A GATEWAY OF THE CITY, NOW KNOWN AS KHOONI DARWAZA, STANDS NEAR KOTLA FIRUZ SHAH.



HE CONSTRUCTED TWO BUILDINGS WITHIN THE PRECINTS OF THE PURANA QILA. ONE WAS A MOSQUE AND THE OTHER WAS THE SHER MANDAL.

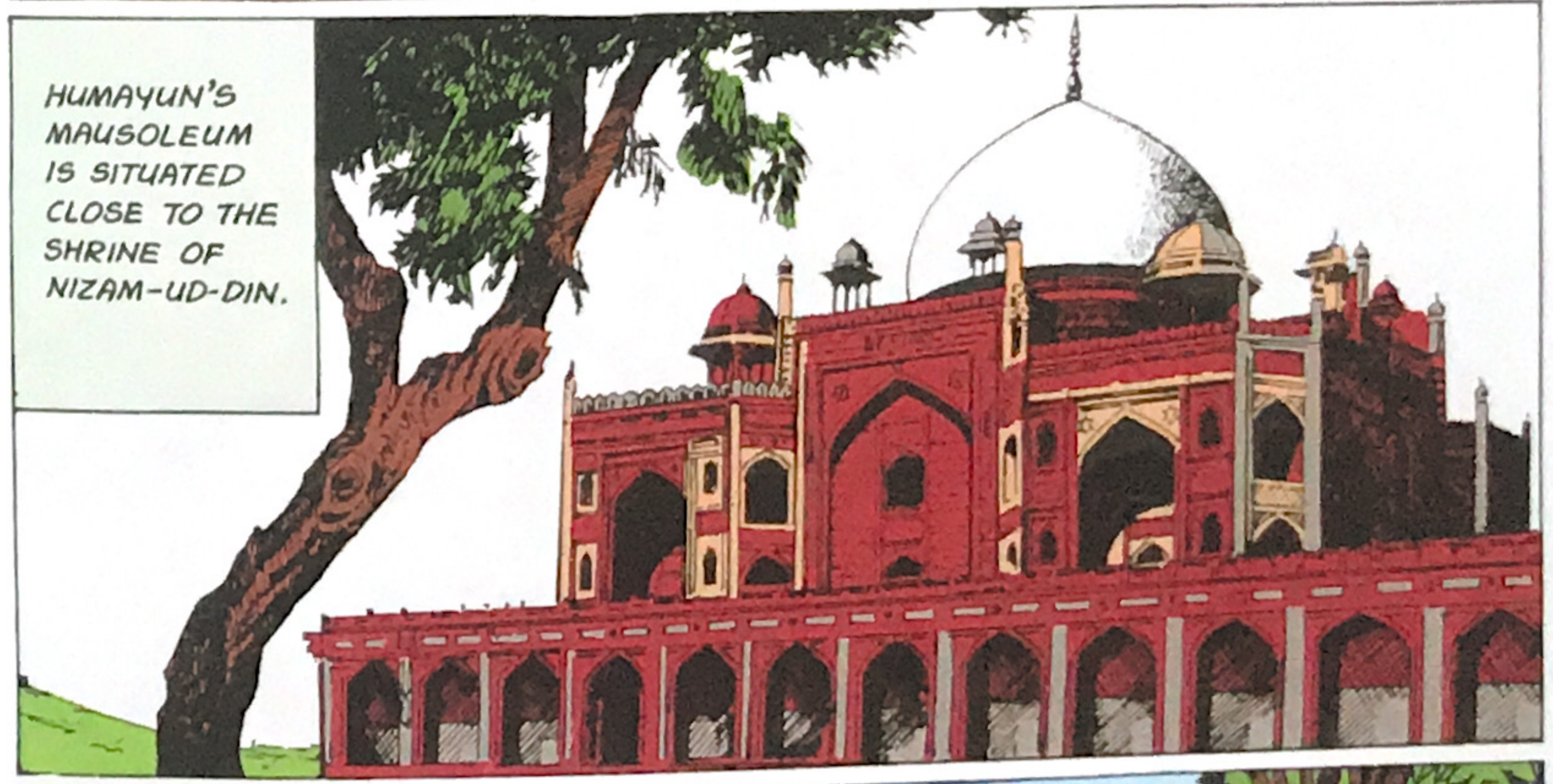


SOME YEARS LATER WHEN HUMAYUN REGAINED THE THRONE OF DELHI, HE SLIPPED ON THE STAIRS OF THIS BUILDING, STRUCK HIS RIGHT TEMPLE ON A SHARP EDGE ...

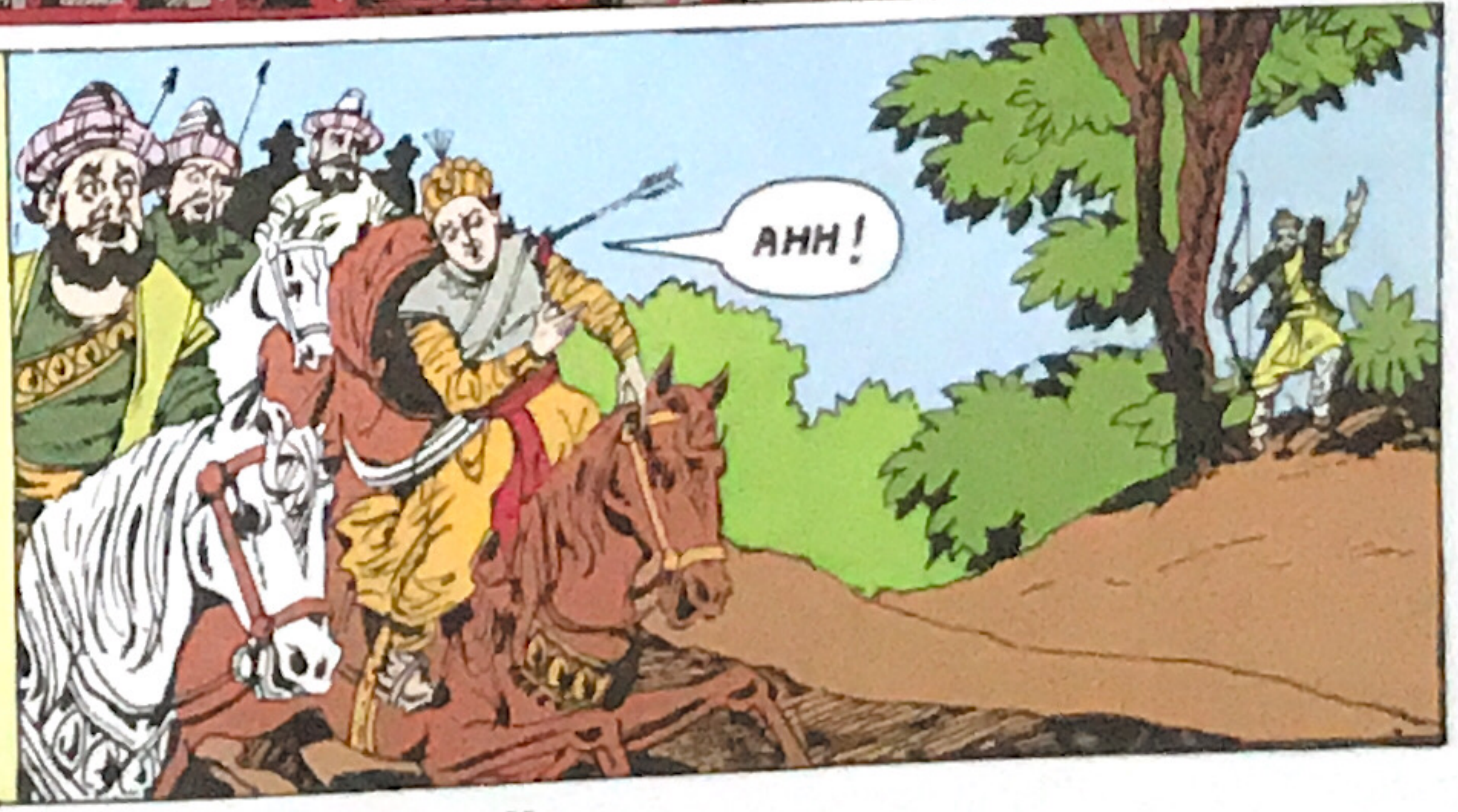


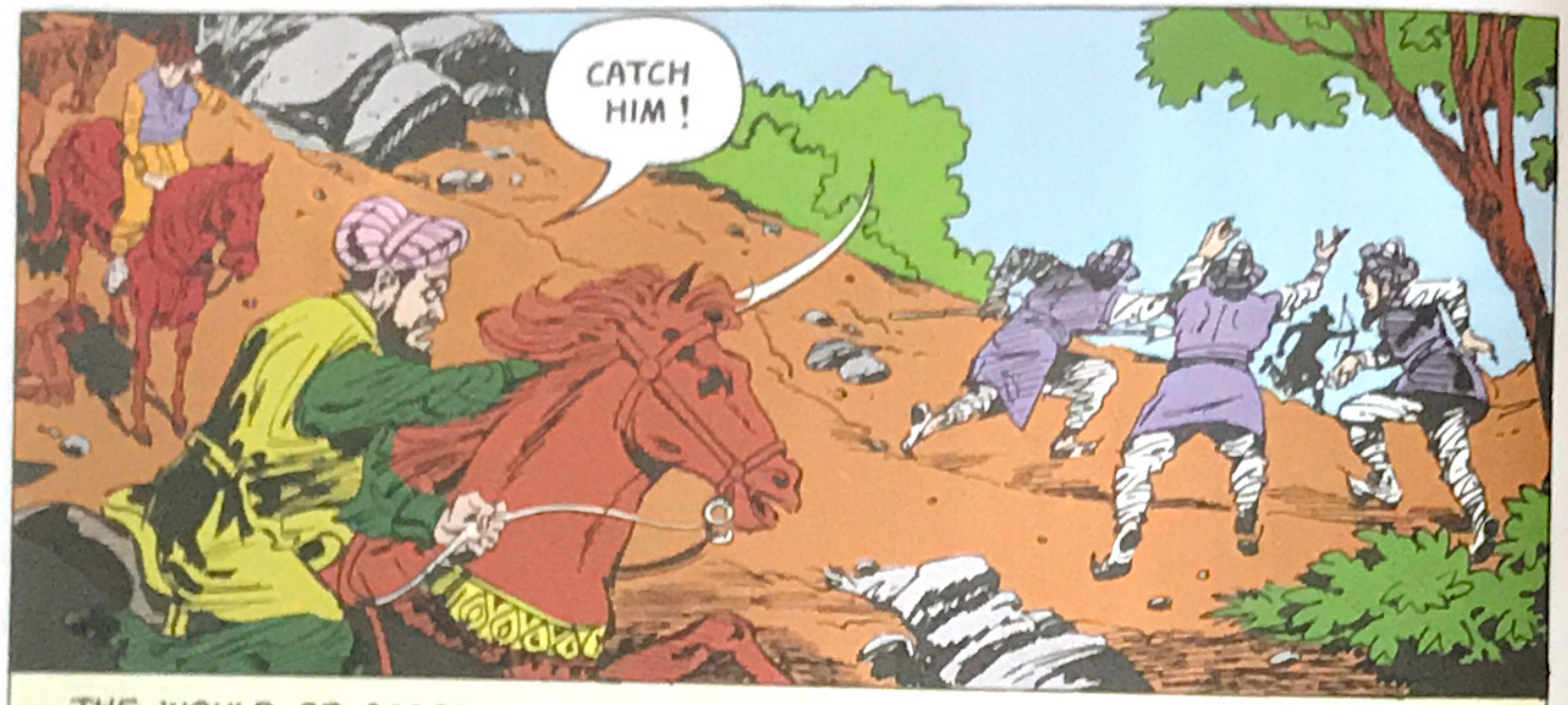
...AND DIED THREE DAYS LATER.

HUMAYUN'S MAUSOLEUM IS SITUATED CLOSE TO THE SHRINE OF NIZAM-UD-DIN.



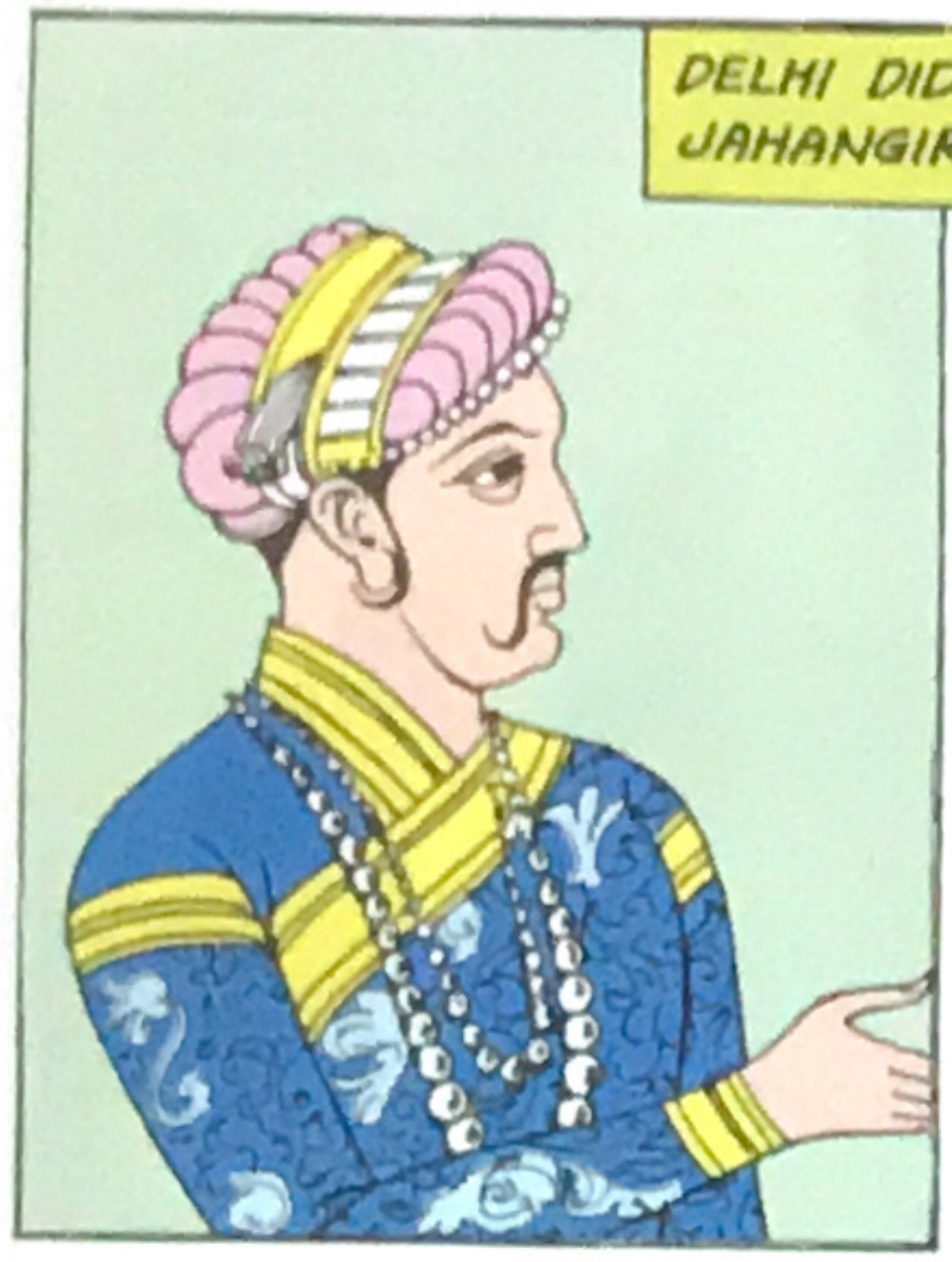
HUMAYUN WAS SUCCEEDED BY HIS SON, AKBAR THE GREAT. ONE DAY WHEN AKBAR WAS RETURNING FROM A VISIT TO THE SHRINE OF NIZAM-UD-DIN AULIYA —

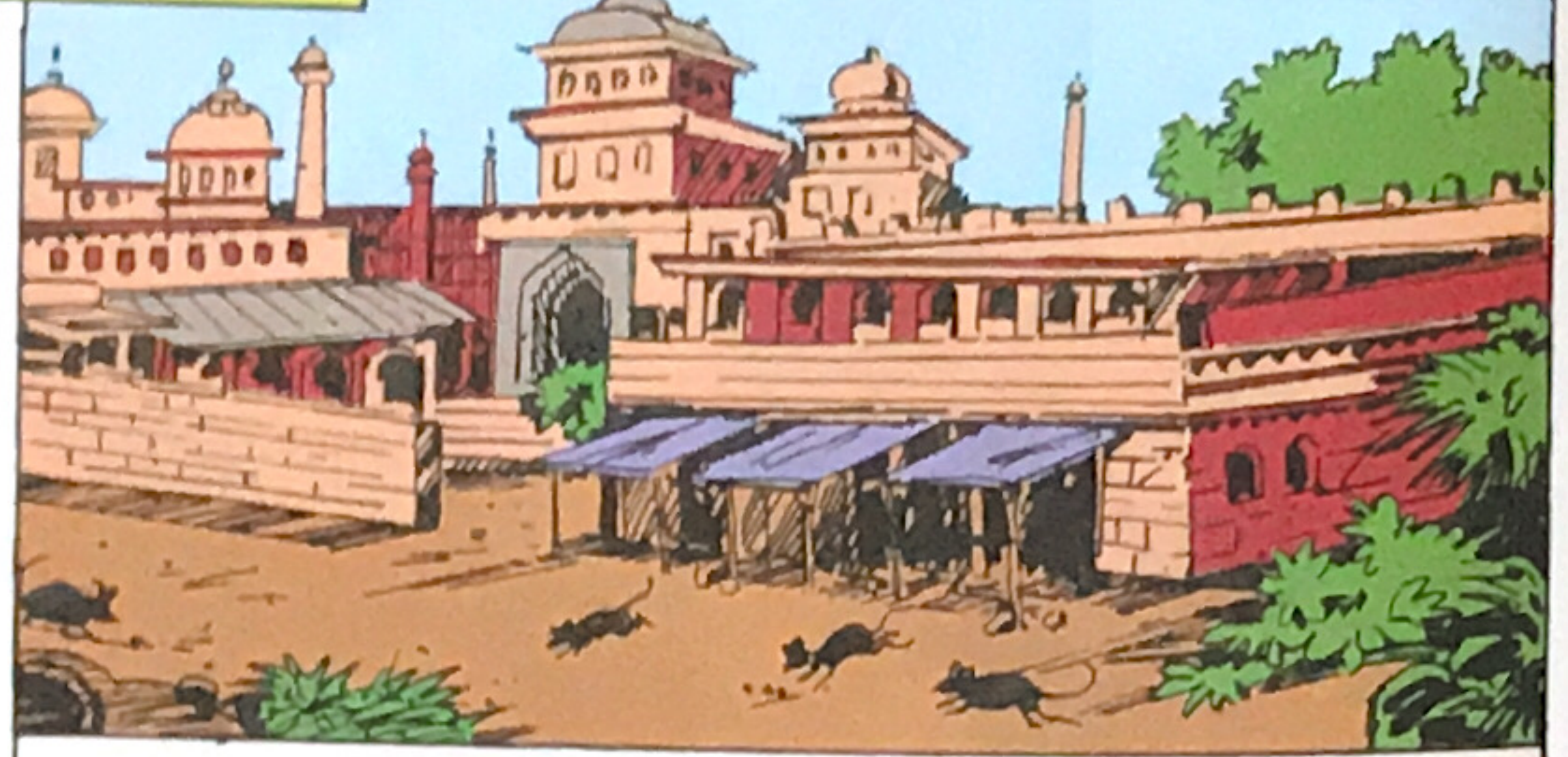




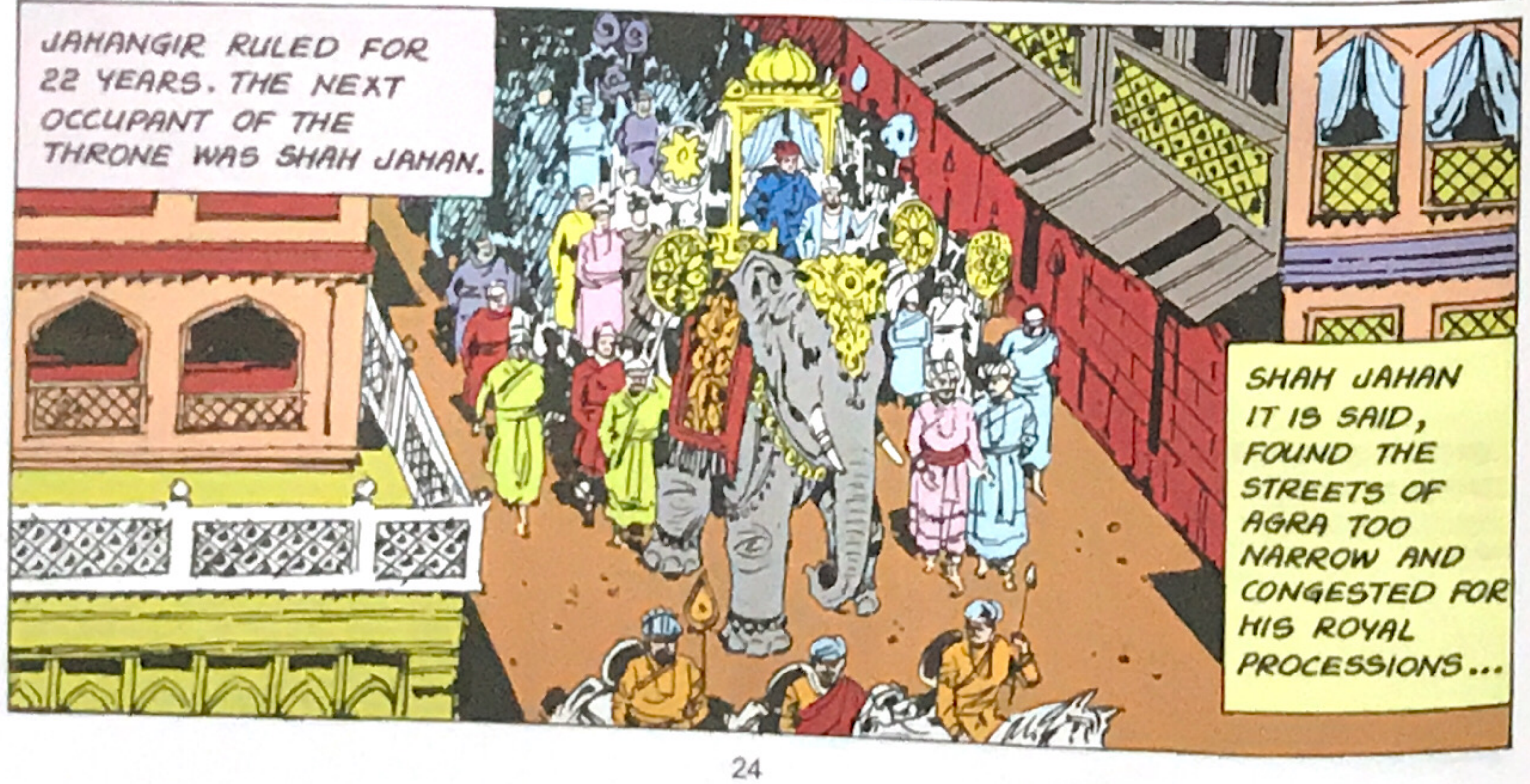
THE WOULD-BE ASSASSIN WAS CAUGHT AND PUNISHED BUT AKBAR DID NOT CARE MUCH FOR DELHI AFTER THAT. HE RULED FROM AGRA AND FATEHPUR SIKRI.

DELHI DID NOT FIND FAVOUR WITH THE NEXT EMPEROR, JAHANGIR, EITHER.





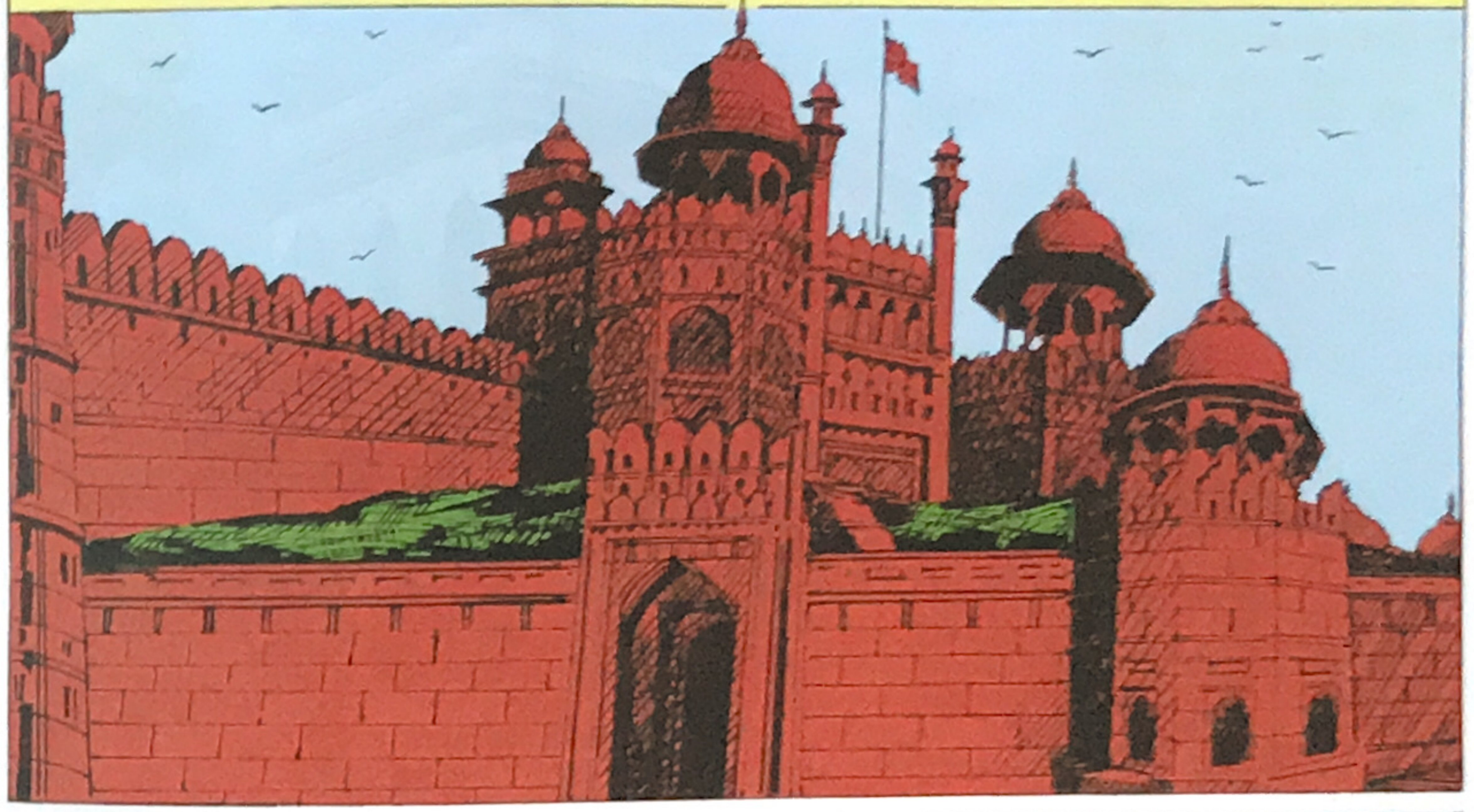
DEVASTATED BY PLAGUE, THE CITY OF KINGS BECAME THE CITY OF RATS.



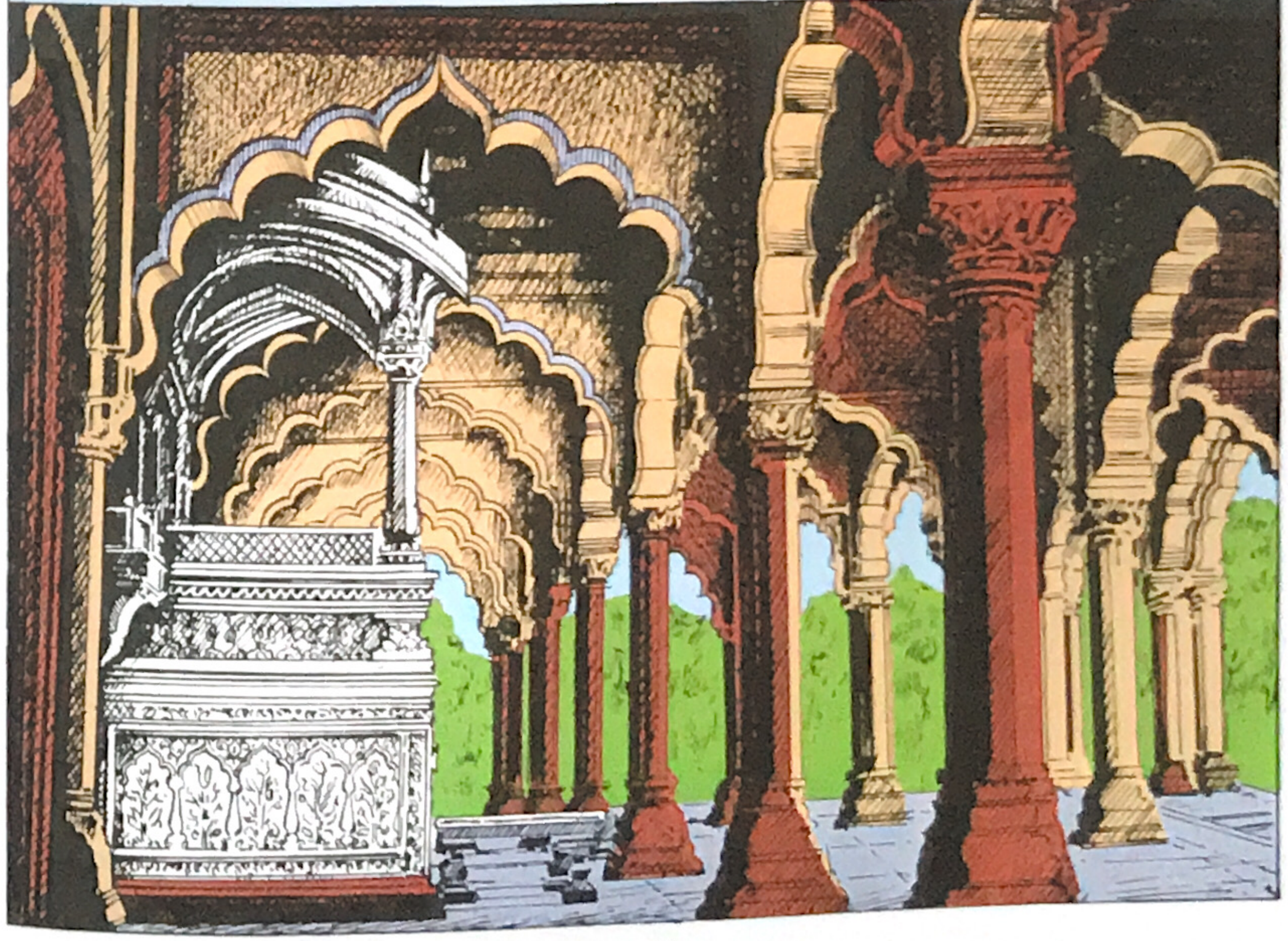
JAHANGIR RULED FOR 22 YEARS. THE NEXT OCCUPANT OF THE THRONE WAS SHAH JAHAN.

SHAH JAHAN IT IS SAID, FOUND THE STREETS OF AGRA TOO NARROW AND CONGESTED FOR HIS ROYAL PROCESSIONS...

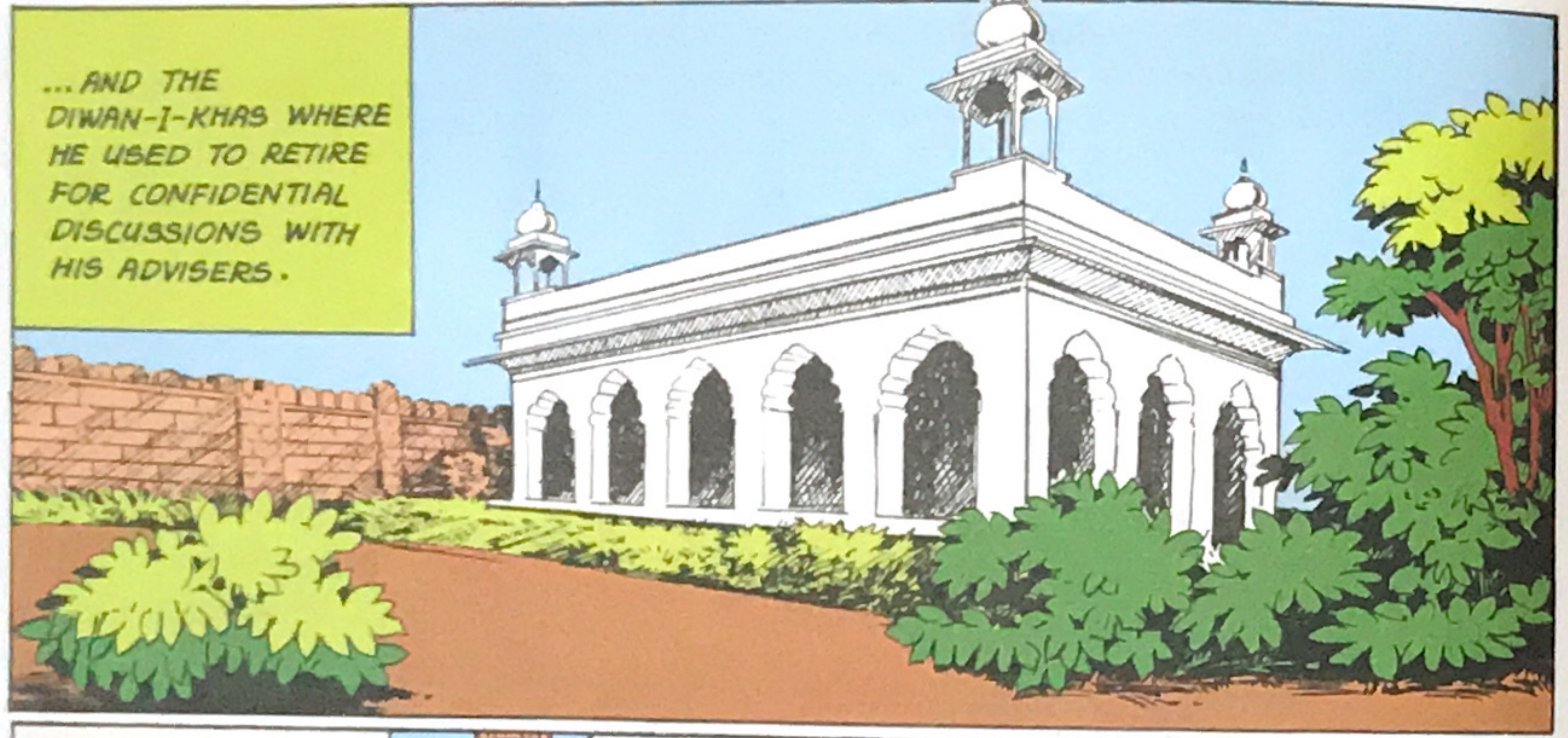
... AND DECIDED TO SHIFT TO DELHI. THERE HE BUILT A MAGNIFICENT CITADEL NOW KNOWN AS THE RED FORT. THE FORT IS SAID TO HAVE COST ABOUT ONE CRORE OF RUPEES TO BUILD.



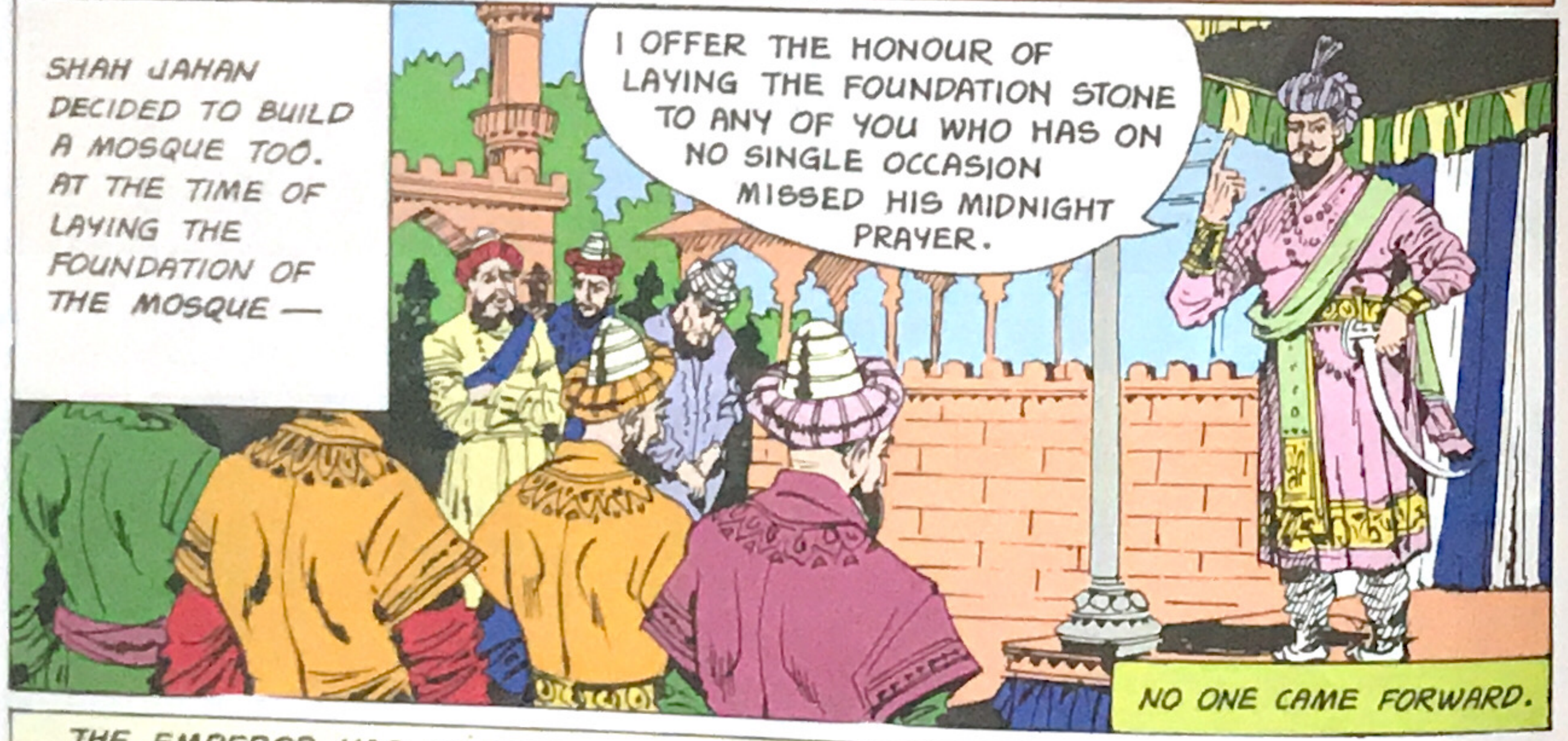
THERE ARE SEVERAL BEAUTIFUL BUILDINGS WITHIN THE FORT, INCLUDING THE DIWAN-I-AAM WHERE THE EMPEROR USED TO GRANT AUDIENCE TO HIS SUBJECTS...



...AND THE DIWAN-I-KHAS WHERE HE USED TO RETIRE FOR CONFIDENTIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH HIS ADVISERS.

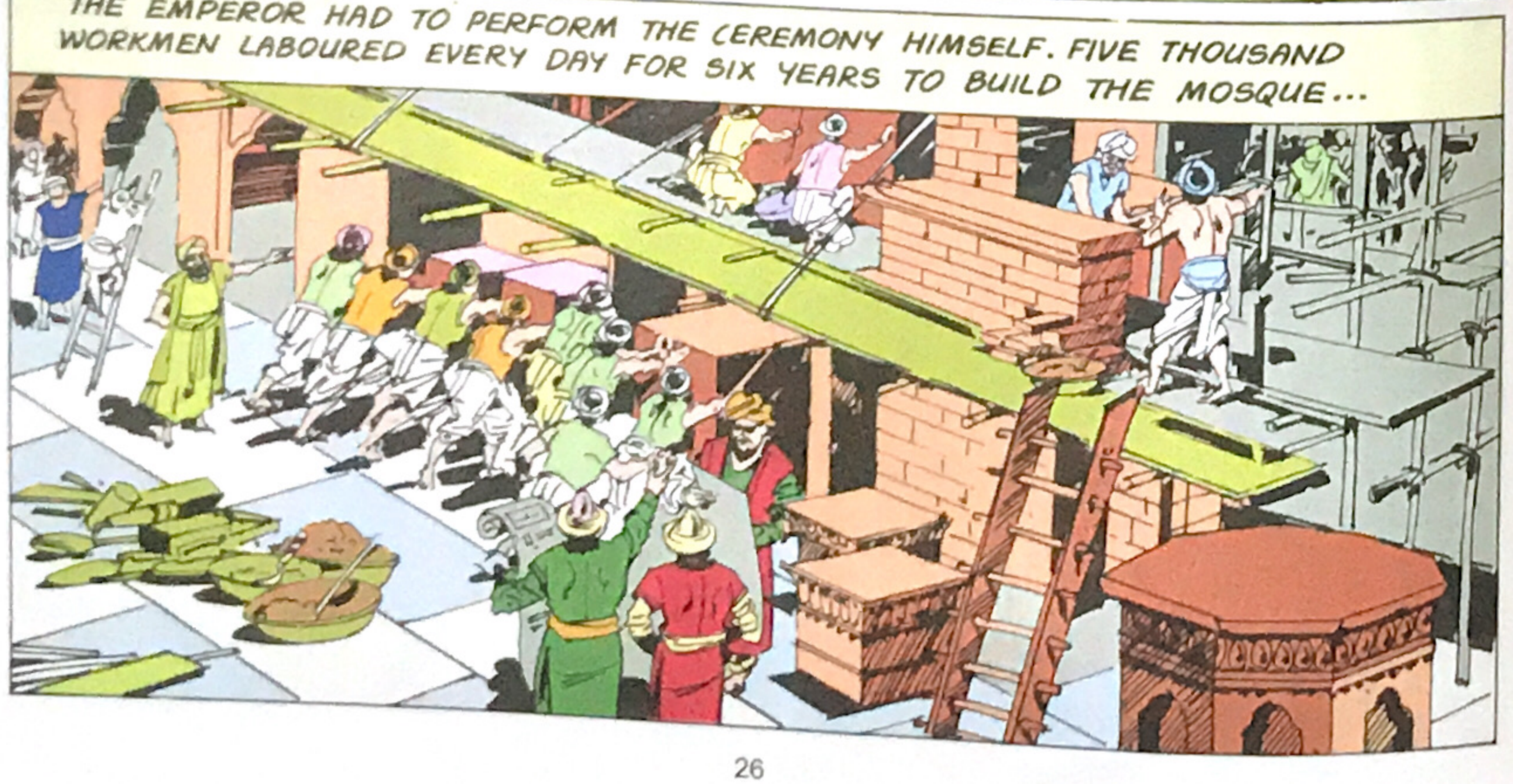


SHAH JAHAN DECIDED TO BUILD A MOSQUE TOO. AT THE TIME OF LAYING THE FOUNDATION OF THE MOSQUE —

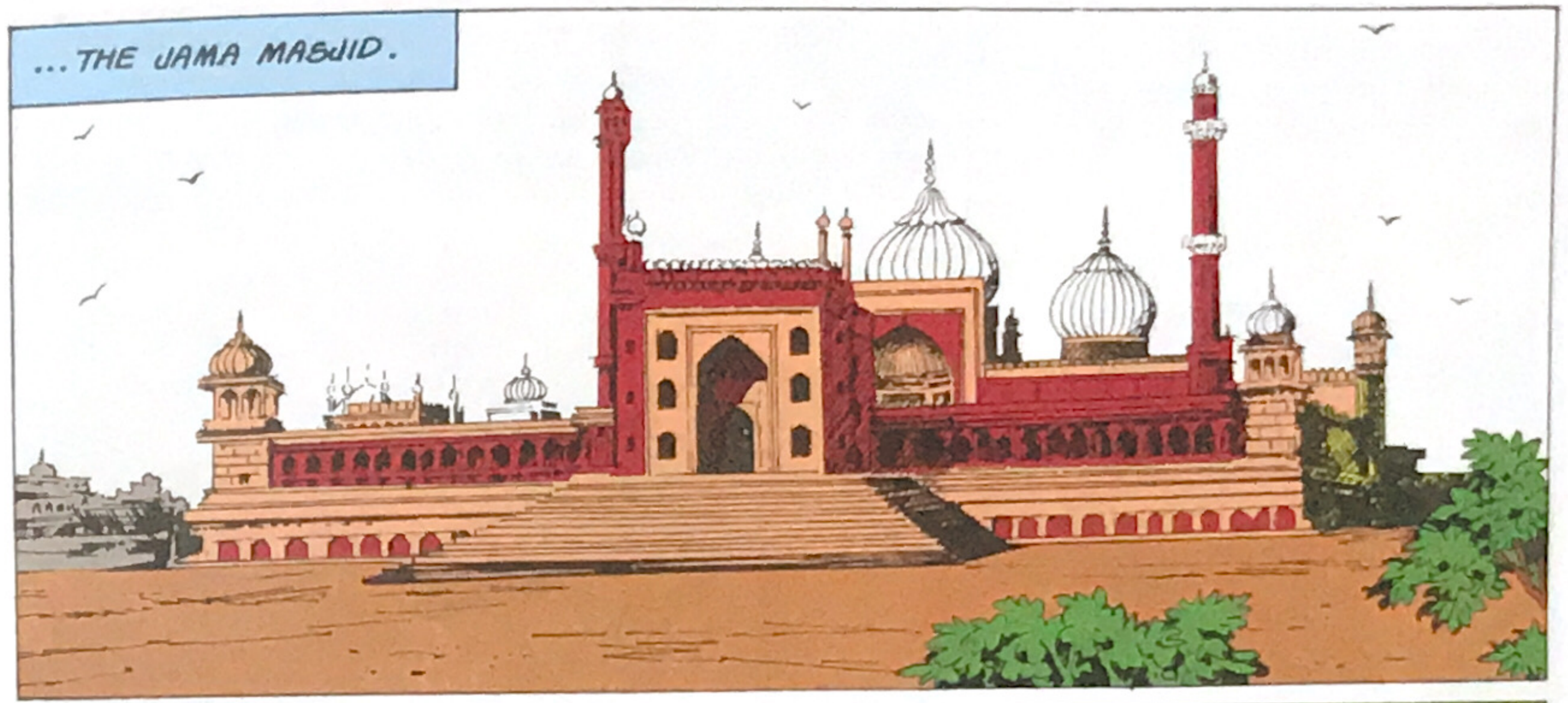

I OFFER THE HONOUR OF LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE TO ANY OF YOU WHO HAS ON NO SINGLE OCCASION MISSED HIS MIDNIGHT PRAYER.

NO ONE CAME FORWARD.

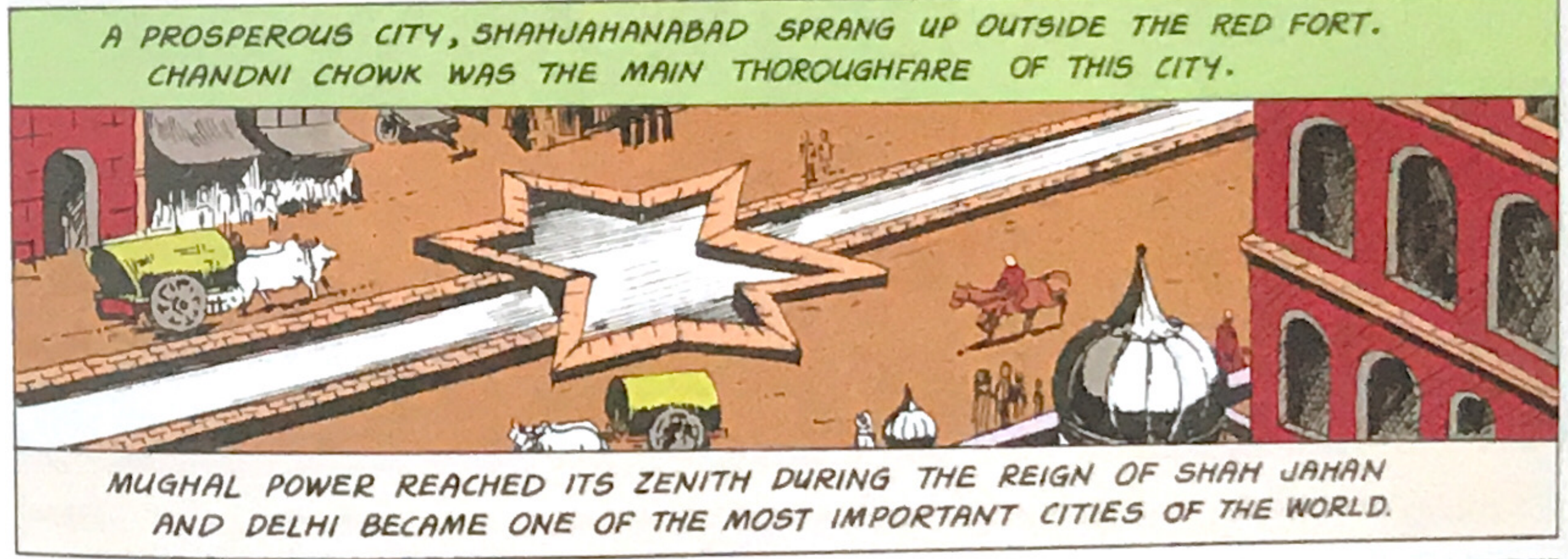
THE EMPEROR HAD TO PERFORM THE CEREMONY HIMSELF. FIVE THOUSAND WORKMEN LABOURED EVERY DAY FOR SIX YEARS TO BUILD THE MOSQUE...



...THE JAMA MASJID.

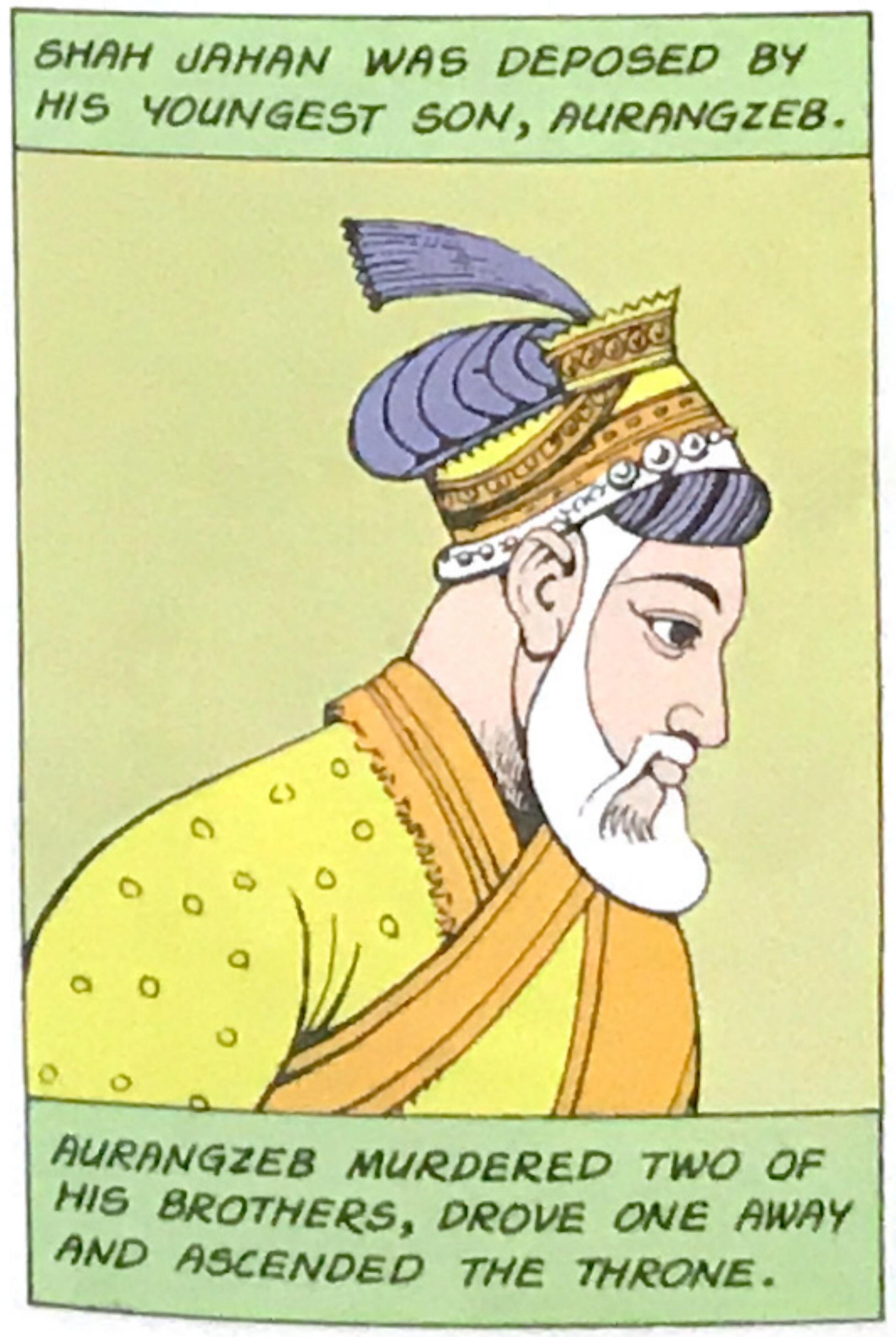


A PROSPEROUS CITY, SHAHJAHANABAD SPRANG UP OUTSIDE THE RED FORT. CHANDNI CHOWK WAS THE MAIN THOROUGHFARE OF THIS CITY.



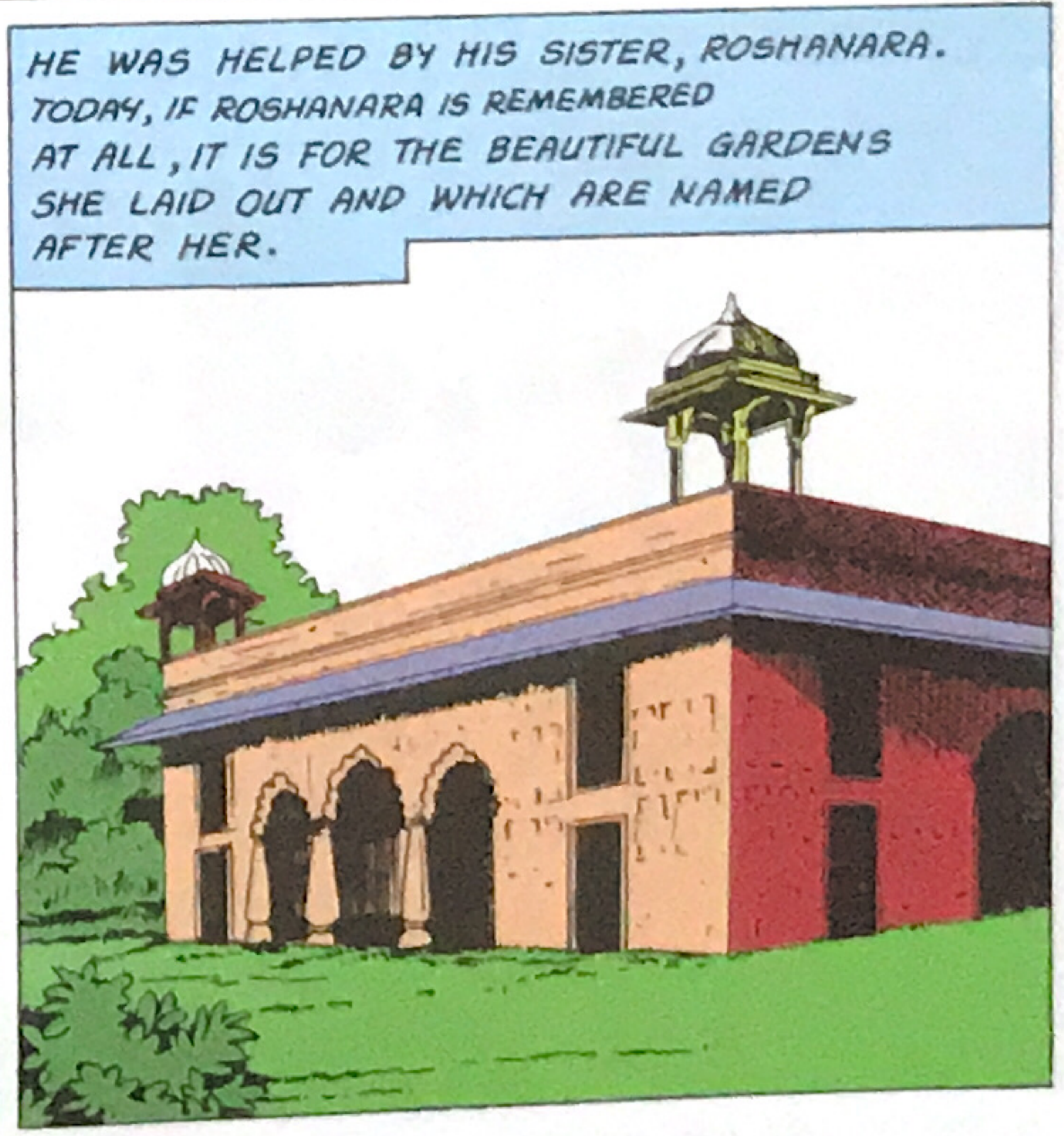
MUGHAL POWER REACHED ITS ZENITH DURING THE REIGN OF SHAH JAHAN AND DELHI BECAME ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT CITIES OF THE WORLD.

SHAH JAHAN WAS DEPOSED BY HIS YOUNGEST SON, AURANGZEB.

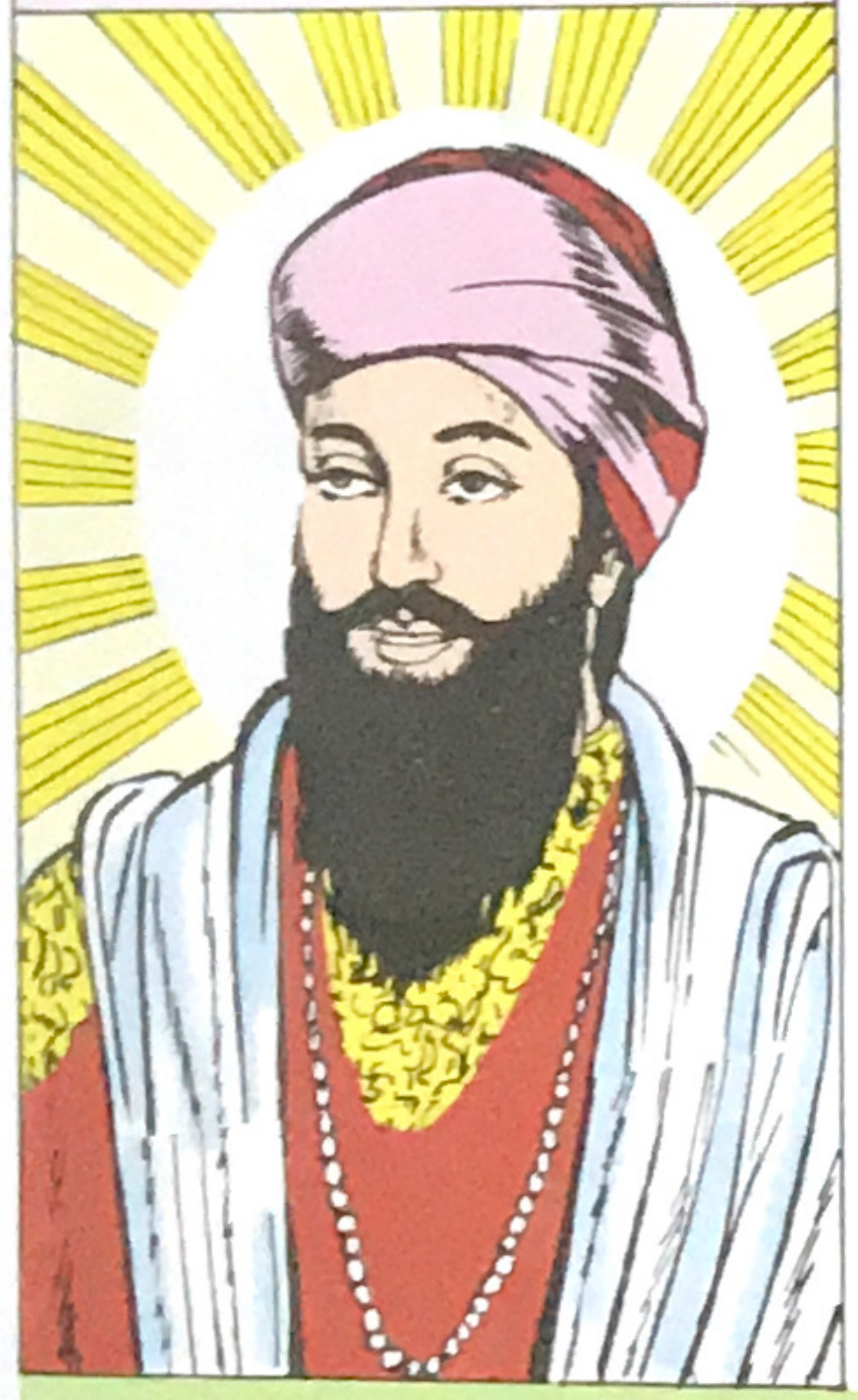


AURANGZEB MURDERED TWO OF HIS BROTHERS, DROVE ONE AWAY AND ASCENDED THE THRONE.

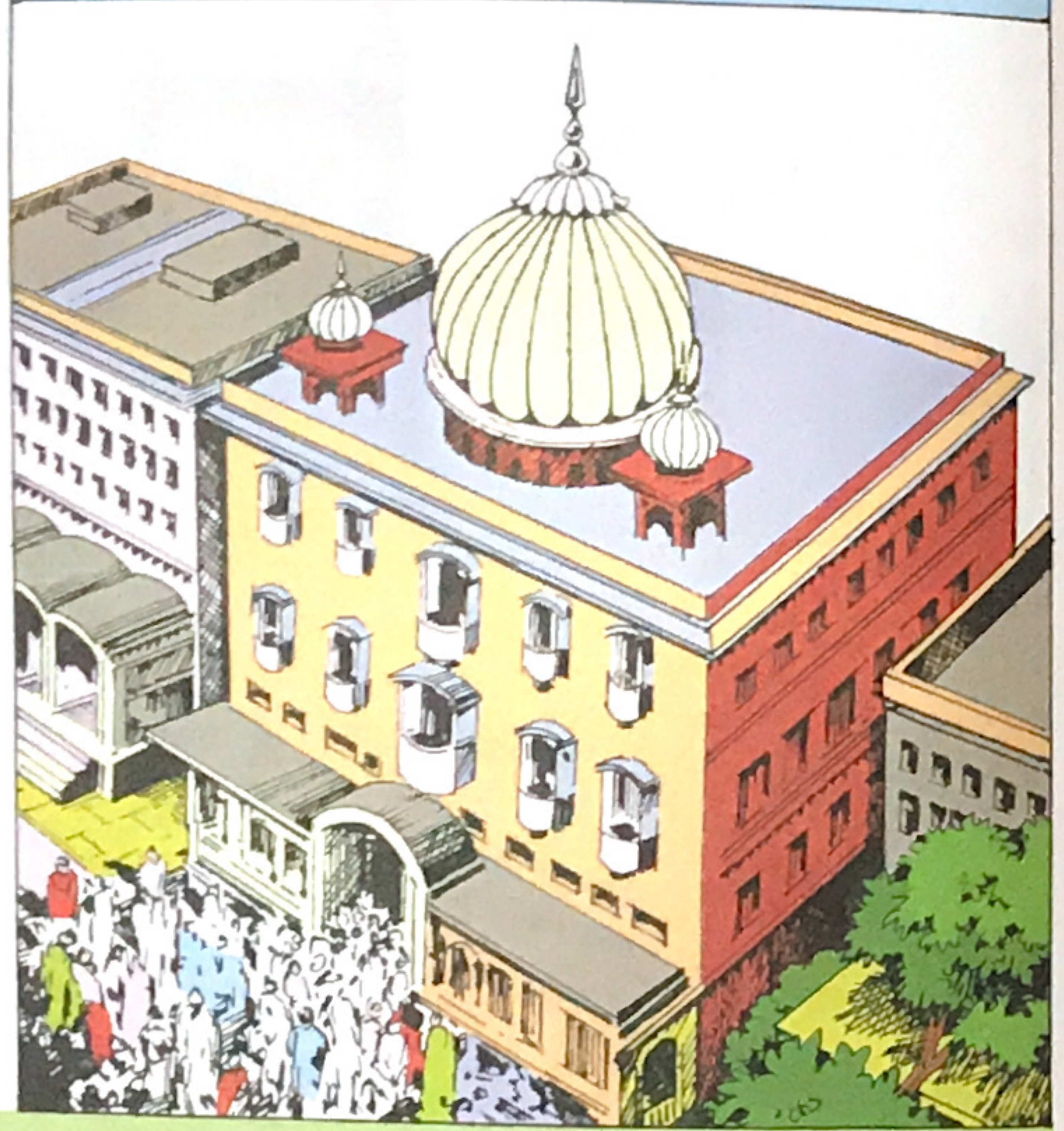
HE WAS HELPED BY HIS SISTER, ROSHANARA. TODAY, IF ROSHANARA IS REMEMBERED AT ALL, IT IS FOR THE BEAUTIFUL GARDENS SHE LAID OUT AND WHICH ARE NAMED AFTER HER.



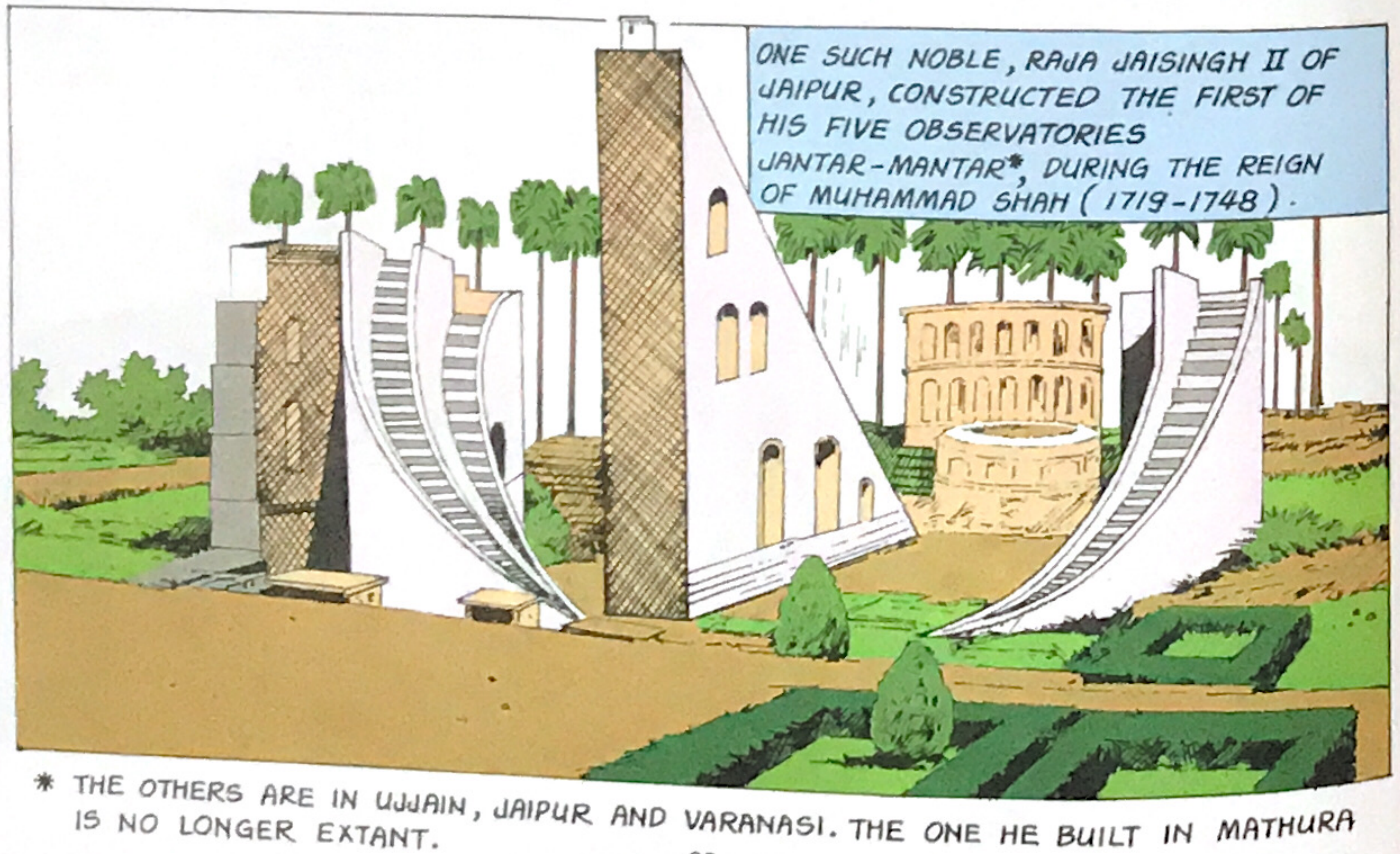
AURANGZEB WAS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF GURU TEGH BAHADUR.



THE TRUNK OF THE BANYAN TREE UNDER WHICH THE GURU IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN BEHEADED CAN STILL BE SEEN IN THE GURUDWARA SIS GANJ IN CHANDNI CHOWK.



THE SIGNS OF THE DECLINE OF THE MUGHAL EMPIRE WERE EVIDENT DURING THE LATER YEARS OF THE REIGN OF AURANGZEB. AMBITIOUS NOBLES BEGAN TO ACQUIRE MORE AND MORE POWER AND INFLUENCE.



ONE SUCH NOBLE, RAJA JAISINGH II OF JAIPUR, CONSTRUCTED THE FIRST OF HIS FIVE OBSERVATORIES JANTAR-MANTAR*, DURING THE REIGN OF MUHAMMAD SHAH (1719-1748).

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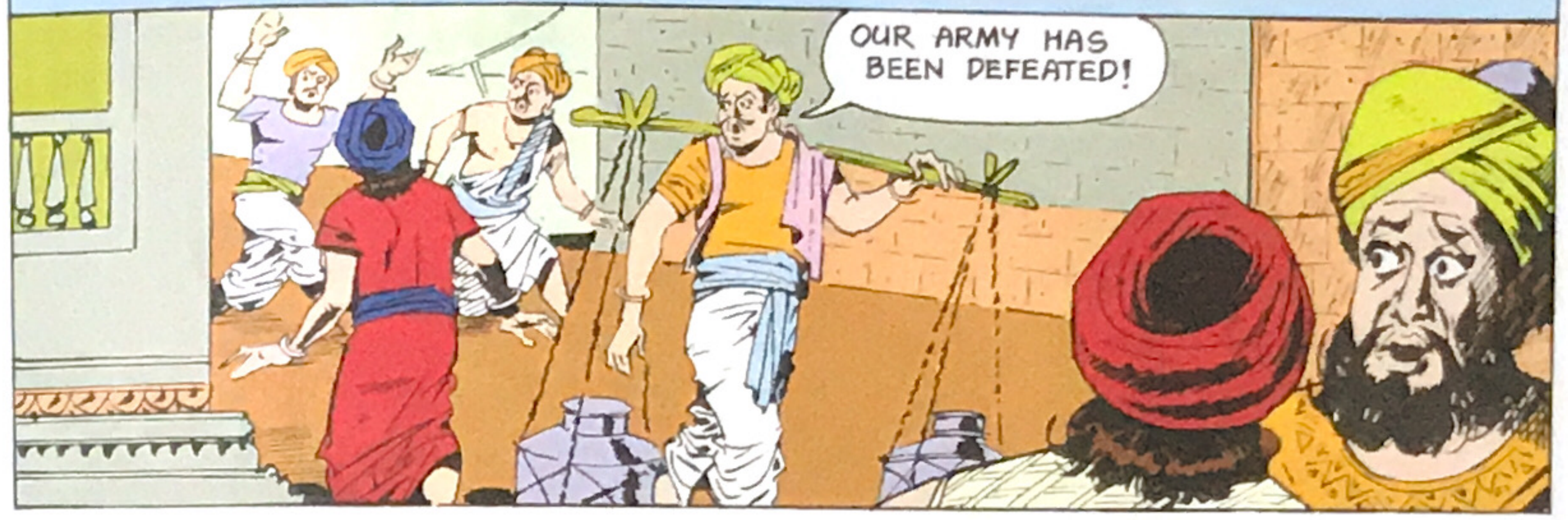
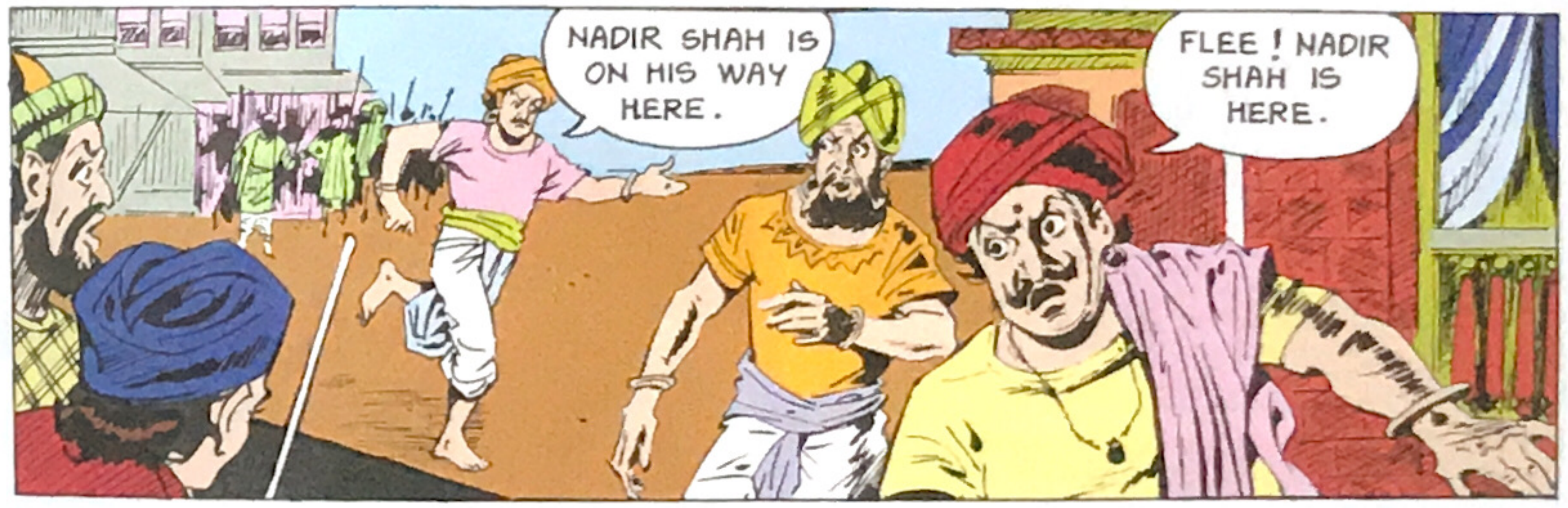
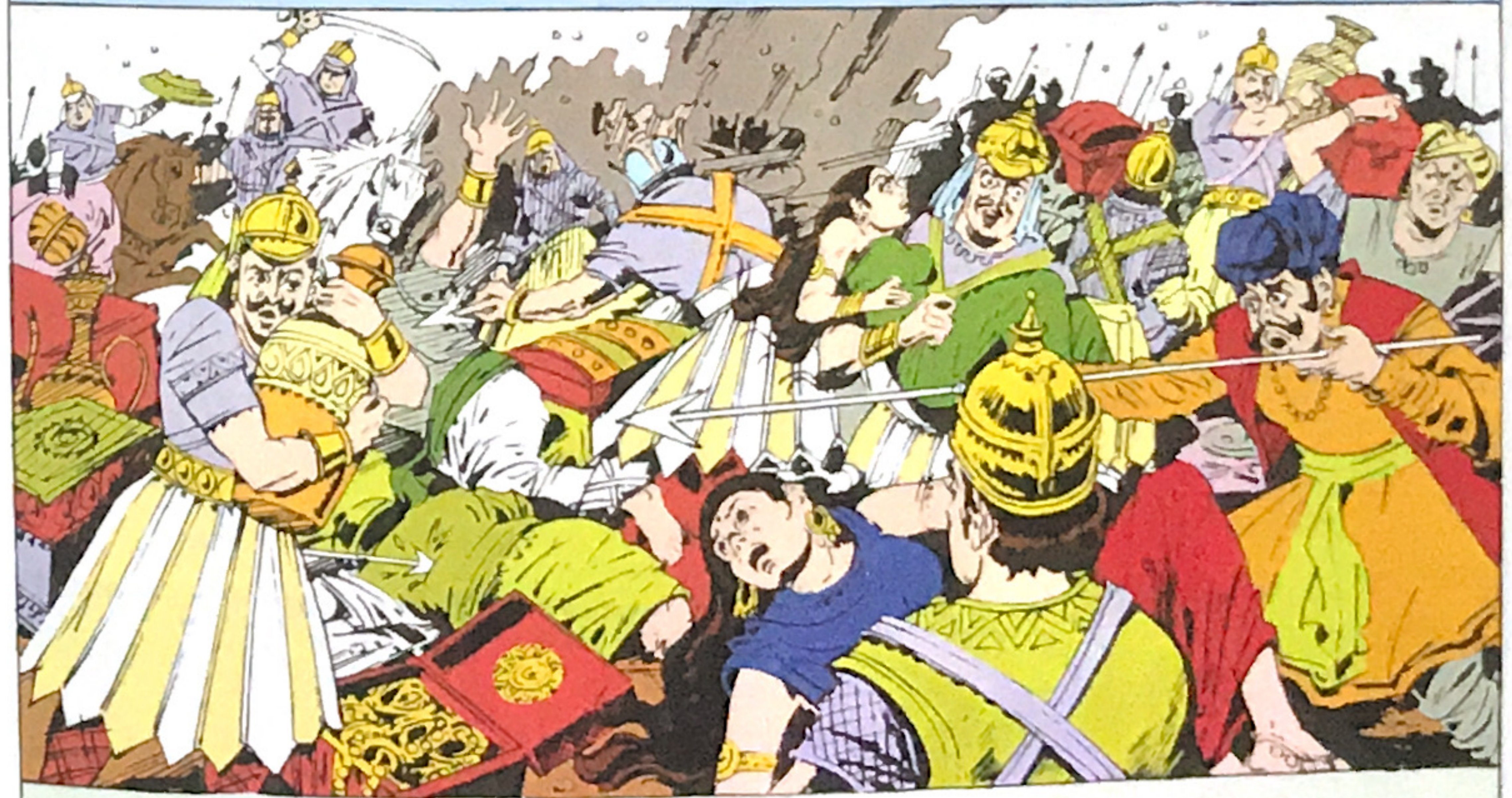
* THE OTHERS ARE IN UJJAIN, JAIPUR AND VARANASI. THE ONE HE BUILT IN MATHURA IS NO LONGER EXTANT.

WITH MORE AND MORE PROVINCES SLIPPING OUT OF ITS CONTROL THE MUGHAL EMPIRE BEGAN TO CRUMBLE. THEN IN 1739 —

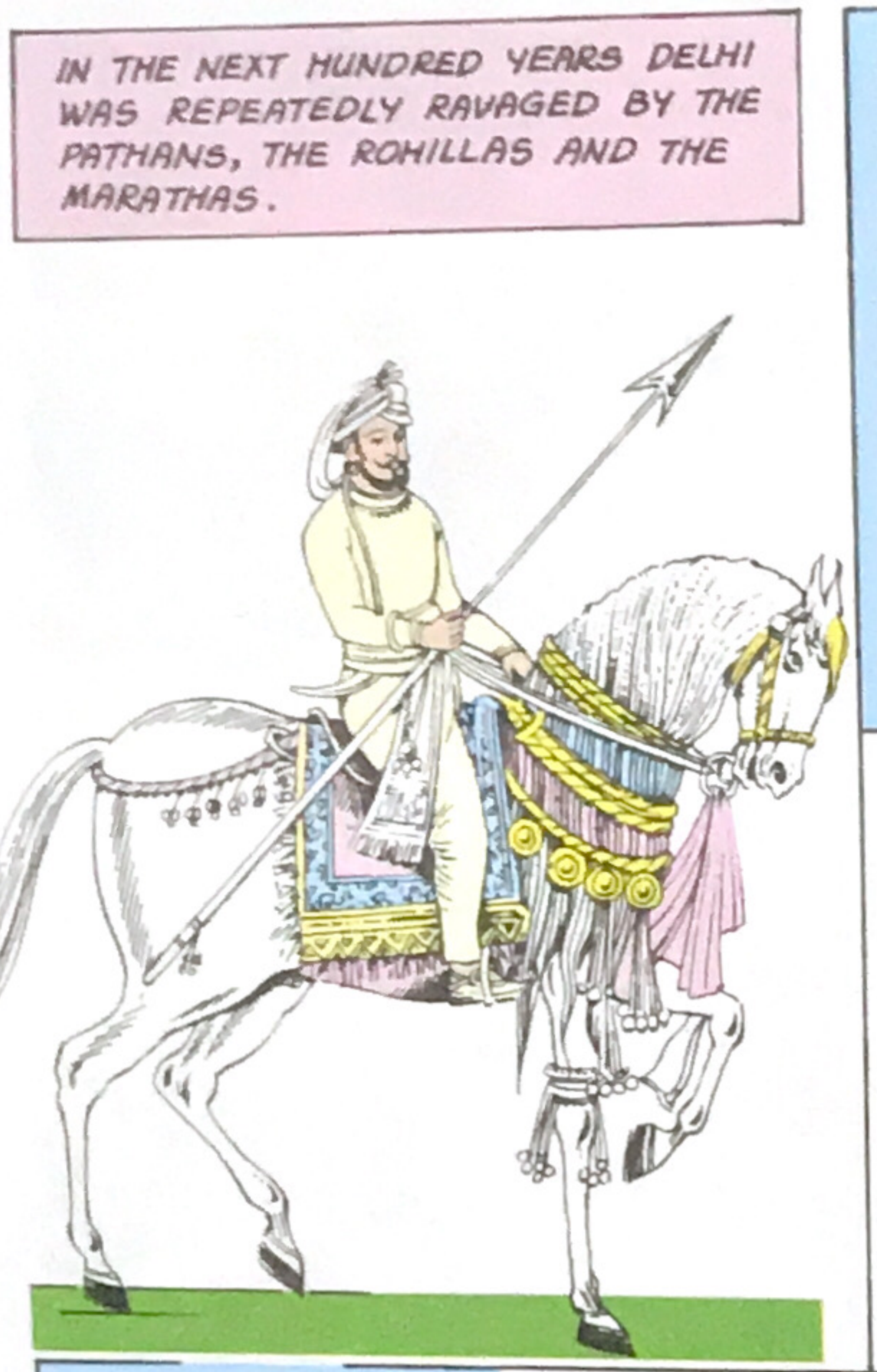

OUR ARMY HAS BEEN DEFEATED!

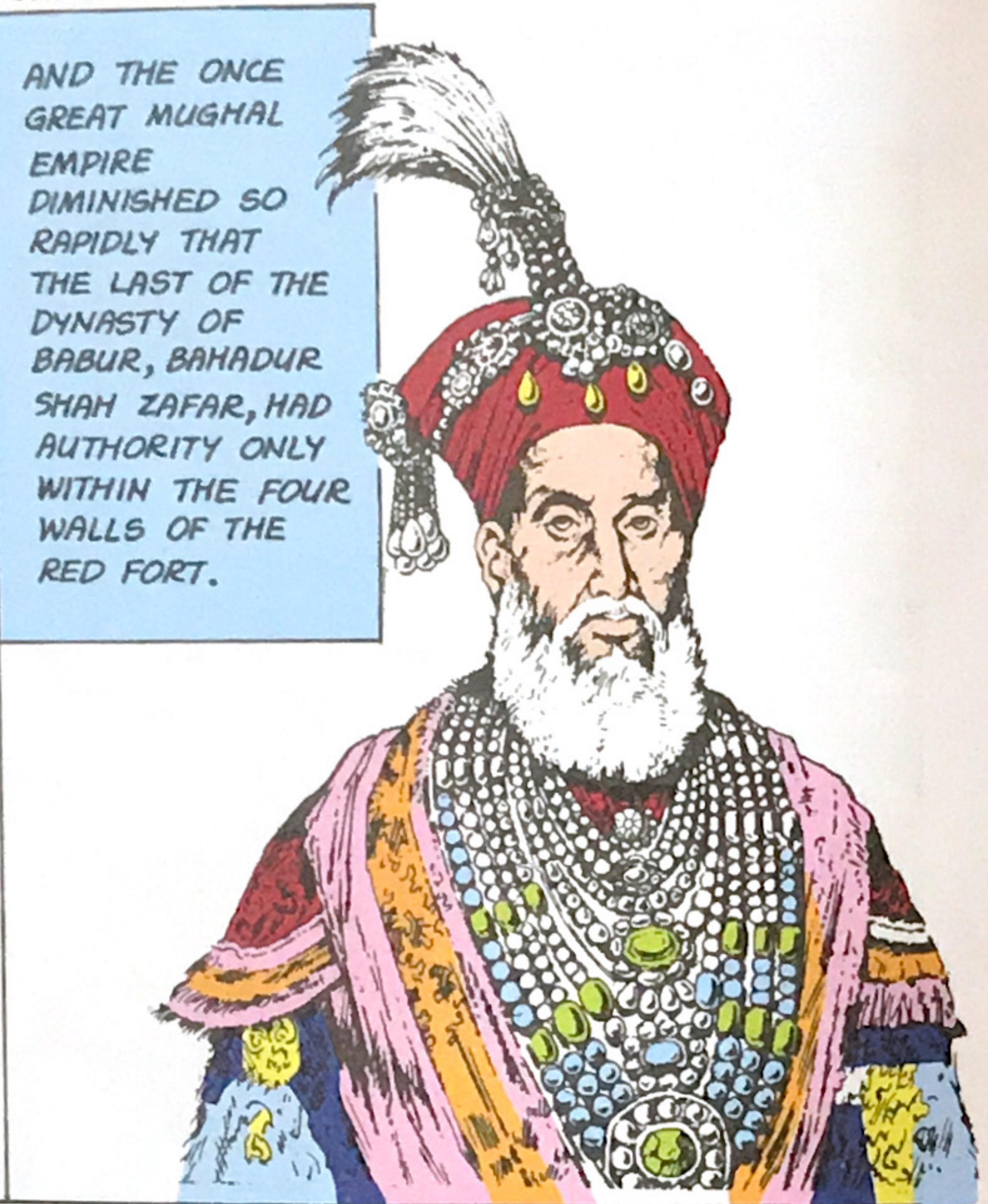

NADIR SHAH IS ON HIS WAY HERE.
FLEE! NADIR SHAH IS HERE.

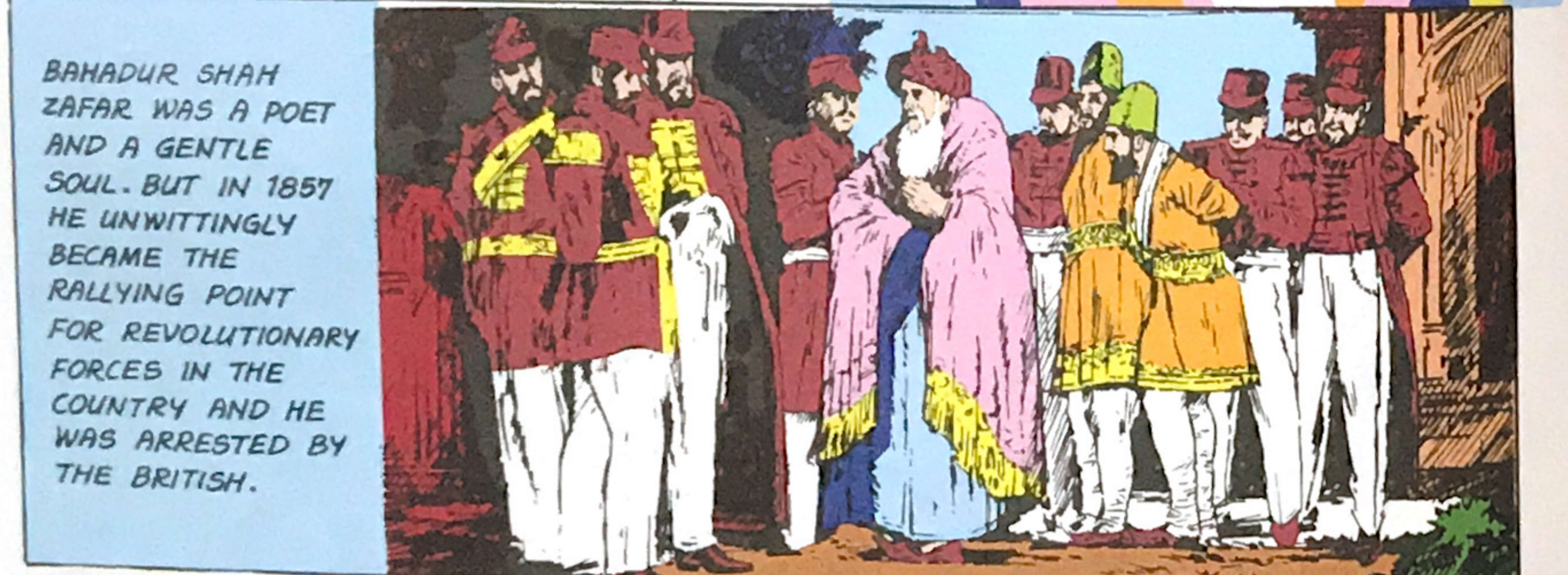
NADIR SHAH OF PERSIA PLUNDERED DELHI AND MASSACRED ITS INHABITANTS.

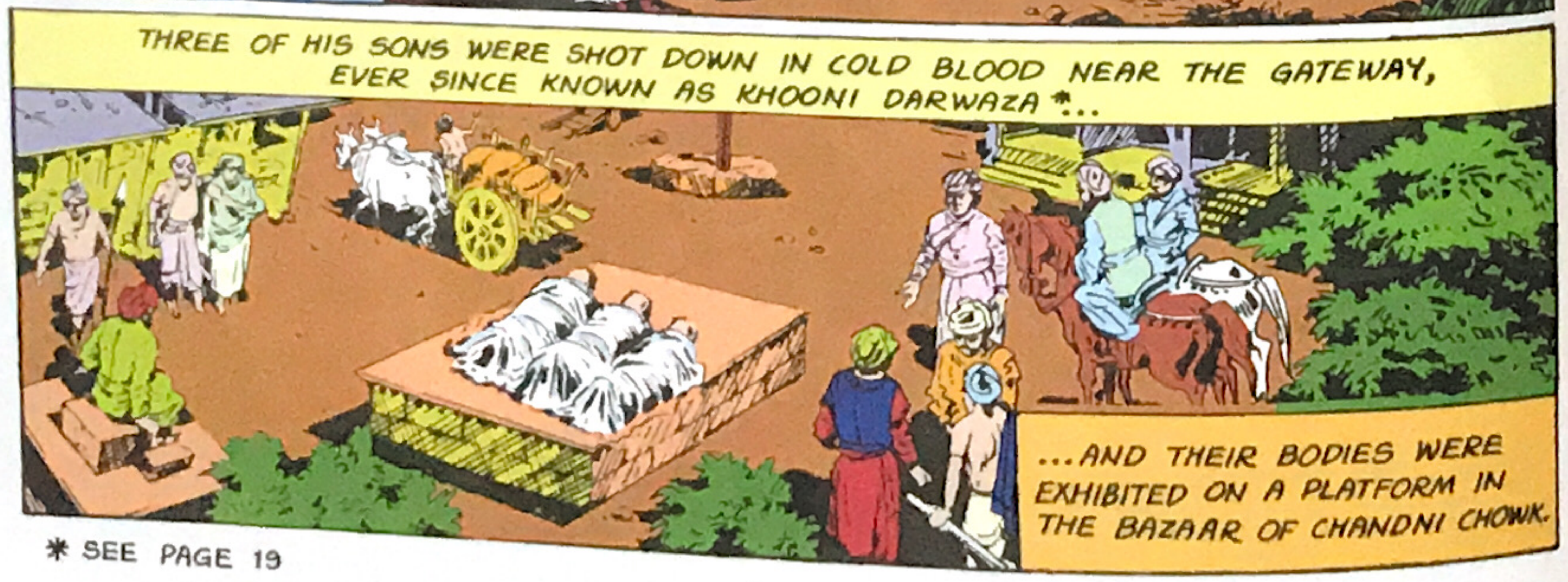


WHEN HE LEFT, HE TOOK WITH HIM THE FABULOUS KOH-I-NOOR, THE PEACOCK THRONE AND SO MUCH WEALTH THAT HE SENT WORD HOME TO PERSIA THAT HIS SUBJECTS WOULD NOT HAVE TO PAY TAXES FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS.


IN THE NEXT HUNDRED YEARS DELHI WAS REPEATEDLY RAVAGED BY THE PATHANS, THE ROHILLAS AND THE MARATHAS.


AND THE ONCE GREAT MUGHAL EMPIRE DIMINISHED SO RAPIDLY THAT THE LAST OF THE DYNASTY OF BABUR, BAHADUR SHAH ZAFAR, HAD AUTHORITY ONLY WITHIN THE FOUR WALLS OF THE RED FORT.


BAHADUR SHAH ZAFAR WAS A POET AND A GENTLE SOUL. BUT IN 1857 HE UNWITTINGLY BECAME THE RALLYING POINT FOR REVOLUTIONARY FORCES IN THE COUNTRY AND HE WAS ARRESTED BY THE BRITISH.


THREE OF HIS SONS WERE SHOT DOWN IN COLD BLOOD NEAR THE GATEWAY, EVER SINCE KNOWN AS KHOONI DARWAZA*...
...AND THEIR BODIES WERE EXHIBITED ON A PLATFORM IN THE BAZAAR OF CHANDNI CHOWK.

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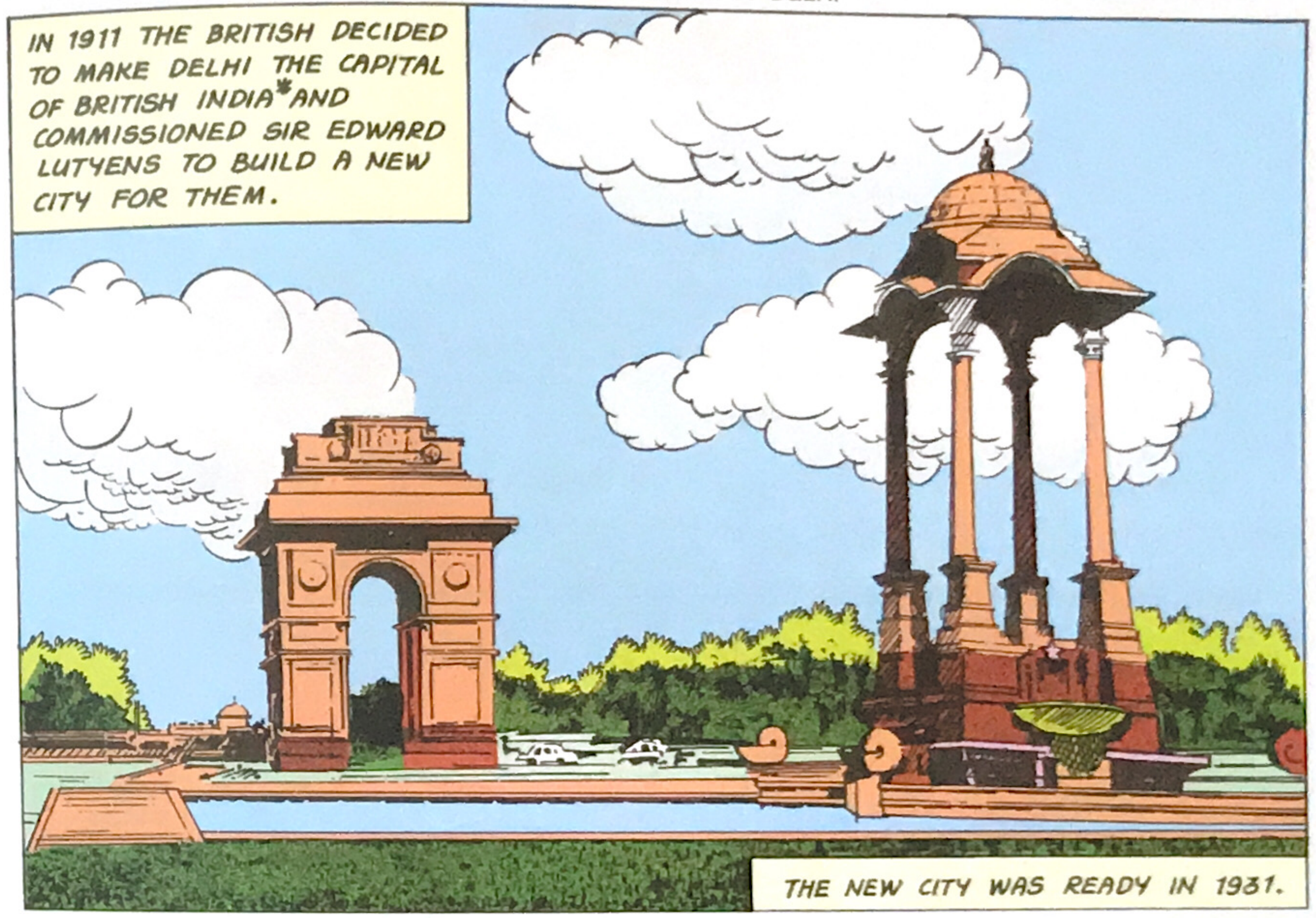
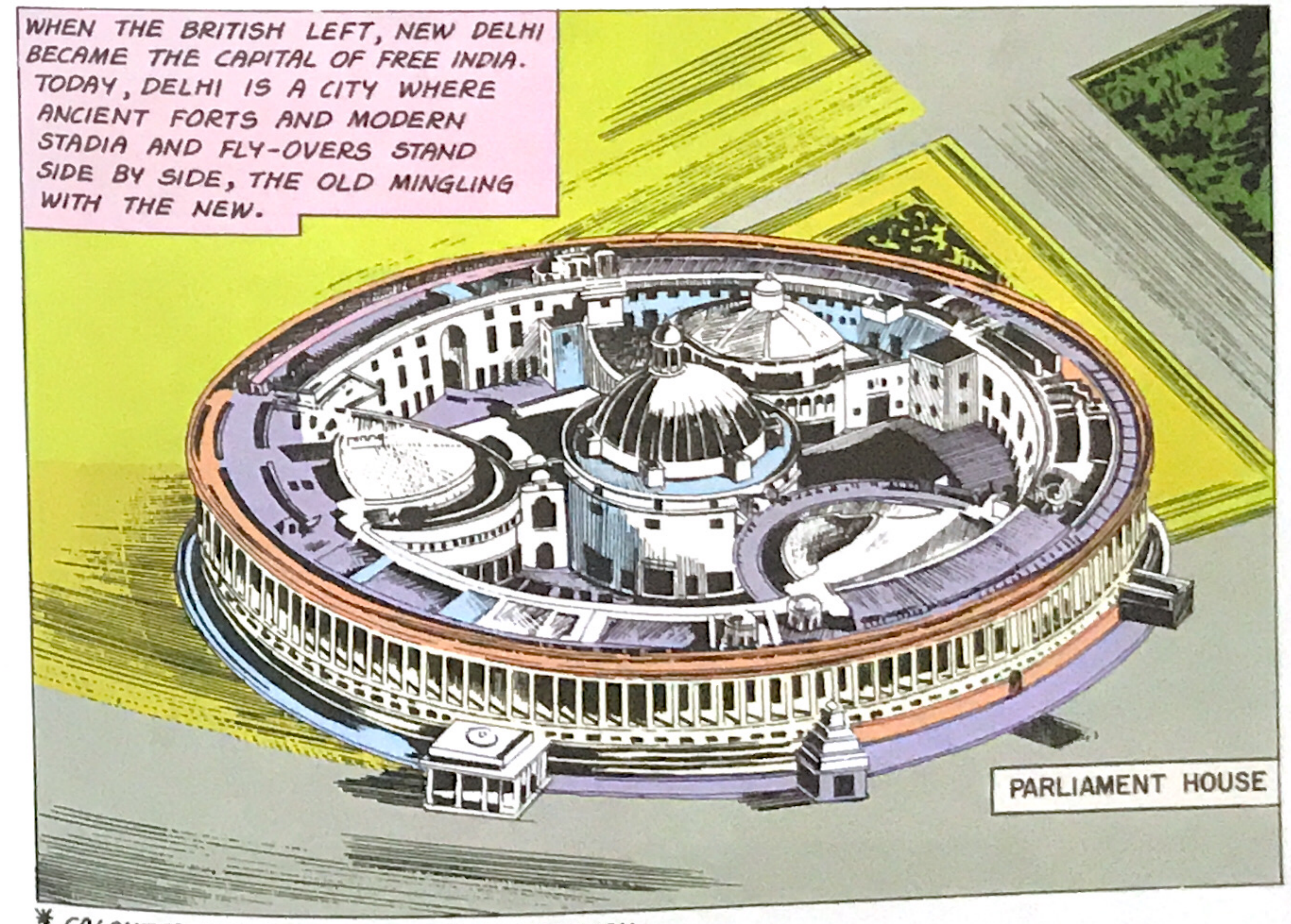
* SEE PAGE 19


IN 1911 THE BRITISH DECIDED TO MAKE DELHI THE CAPITAL OF BRITISH INDIA* AND COMMISSIONED SIR EDWARD LUTYENS TO BUILD A NEW CITY FOR THEM.
THE NEW CITY WAS READY IN 1931.


WHEN THE BRITISH LEFT, NEW DELHI BECAME THE CAPITAL OF FREE INDIA. TODAY, DELHI IS A CITY WHERE ANCIENT FORTS AND MODERN STADIA AND FLY-OVERS STAND SIDE BY SIDE, THE OLD MINGLING WITH THE NEW.
PARLIAMENT HOUSE

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* CALCUTTA HAD BEEN THE CAPITAL TILL THEN